

All Around Pennsauken



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February 2018

Public Meetings Continue For School District Bond Referendum

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

With less than a month and a half away until the bond referendum vote on March 13, the Pennsauken School District is holding several events to inform residents about the proposed initiative designed to make significant improvements to all public schools throughout Pennsauken. In addition to District representatives making presentations to local community groups in the next few weeks, there will be several meetings this month for the public to attend, ask questions, and be informed.

On Saturday, Feb. 10, from 2:00-5:00 p.m., there will be a special dinner and referendum meeting at The Pub, 7600 Kaighns Ave. in Pennsauken. The District will host a presentation about the referendum and also honor Mr. Dennis Armento, a Pennsauken High School teacher who passed away in 2016. The cost for dinner is just \$25 per person and includes a three-course meal – salad bar, choice of one of four entrees, and dessert – as well as unlimited soda, coffee, and tea. Attendees can R.S.V.P. at bzino@pennsauken.net. Payment will be made the day of the event at The Pub.

There will be two “Chat and Chew” events at the Pennsauken Free Public Library, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., where the public will be able to learn about the upcoming referendum vote and ask questions. These will occur on Thursday, Feb. 15 and

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Township Committee, School Board Hold Reorganization Meetings

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

By state law, reorganization meetings for municipal governments have to occur within the first seven days of January. So on the first Thursday of the year, Pennsauken residents and municipal representatives gathered at the Pennsauken Country Club on a snowy evening to set the town's government for 2018.

Mayor, Deputy Mayor Sworn In, Re-elected Officials Take Oath Of Office

Jack Killion, sworn in by Superior Court Judge Louis R. Meloni, was re-elected to Township Committee in November and took the oath of office to serve as Pennsauken's mayor for 2018. During his remarks, he spoke about the past work of Committee to accentuate the positive things happening in the community.

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Pennsauken's Clark, Taylor Receive Camden County's 2018 MLK Jr. Freedom Medal

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Pennsauken residents Davon Clark and Rick Taylor were among 13 Camden County residents honored for their work in the community during the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Medal Awards. Held last month at the Camden County Boathouse in Pennsauken, the annual event – which has taken place since 2001 –



Longtime Pennsauken educator and public servant Rick Taylor, seen here with Deputy Freeholder Director Ed McDonnell, was one of 13 Camden County residents who received the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Medal.

recognized those who have selflessly contributed their time and effort to better their community in conjunction with the goals of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“It's great to have anybody from our Camden County community to be recognized, but we have some very special people from Pennsauken here tonight,” says Lou Cappelli, Jr., director, Camden County Board of Freeholders. “Both have had years and years of selfless service to community and they really reflect the true values of Martin Luther King.”

“Being Rick Taylor's friend and knowing

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Bends And Brews

Double Nickel Brewing Company and Bendy Jane Yoga are hosting a "Bends and Brews" event on Sunday, Feb. 11, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., held at the microbrewery on 1585 Rt. 73, Pennsauken. Get your bend on in a 60-minute all levels yoga class. Then, reward yourself with a deliciously refreshing Double Nickel brew! The cost is \$20 per person for yoga and beer. Attendees are asked to bring their own mat. Purchase tickets in advance to guarantee your spot by visiting <http://bit.ly/bends-brewsdoublenickel> or by stopping into the Double Nickel.

AARP

Pennsauken AARP Chapter 2861 will be meeting on Monday, Feb. 12, at the PYAA Field House, 3501 Elm Ave. Fellowship and coffee starts at 12:30 p.m.; meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. Remember it is time to pay your 2018 dues: \$10. This month's guest speaker is Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, superintendent of Pennsauken Public Schools; he will be discussing the Bond Referendum vote on March 13. Please come out and hear what he has to say, as this affects all of us and our taxes. Bring your friends!

Nutrition Seminar

Concord Wellness Institute, 7150 N. Park Drive, Suite 420 in Pennsauken, is hosting a "Nutrition Simplified" seminar on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Hear from special guest Sensei Shane Baker from Tiger Schulmann's Martial Arts in Cherry Hill. To register, visit www.concordwellness.com/wellness-workshop.html.

PASA

Please join the Pennsauken Alliance on Substance Abuse (PASA) as they work to educate the community about ways to stop abuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. The organization's next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7:00 p.m., at Temple Lutheran Church, 5600 North Route 130, Pennsauken, NJ 08110.

WinterFest Skating On Valentine's Day Weekend

Grab your significant other and head to WinterFest at Cooper River Park for tons of Valentine's Day discounts and giveaways brought to you by TD Bank. From Wednesday, Feb. 14 to Saturday, Feb. 17, TD cardholders will receive \$1 off admission. All guests will get free

chocolate when picking up your skate rentals or stopping by the concession stand. For more information, visit SkateWinterFest.com.

Town Watch

Pennsauken's Town Watch hosts its next meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m., at the Pennsauken Police Department, Second Floor. Come learn how to make our community safer. For more information, call (856) 488-0080 ext. 2417.

American Legion

American Legion Fredrick W. Griggs Post 68 will meet on Thursday,

Feb. 15, at 7:00 p.m. These monthly meetings are held at the Merchantville Community Center, 212 Somerset Ave. All veterans who served during qualifying conflicts are welcome to join. The Post now has an Auxiliary Unit which meets at 6:00 p.m., prior to the Post meeting. Any ladies who are the spouse or the daughter of a veteran are welcome to join.

Bridal Showcase

Foodwerx featuring Nicholas Caterers is hosting a Bridal Showcase on Sunday, Feb. 25, noon to 4:00 p.m., at the Camden County Boathouse, 7050 N.

Park Dr. The event features a variety of preferred vendors, as well as tastings, special offers, and a chance to win free wedding catering! To R.S.V.P., e-mail info@foodwerx.com.

Flea Market

Saint Peter's annual flea market will be held on Saturday, March 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the church's Pastor's Hall, 43 W. Maple Ave., Merchantville. This fun event features interesting items and lots of food. Vendor spots are just \$20 and include a table. For more information, call Jo at (856) 667-5237.

On The Job

Helping to connect Pennsauken residents with local companies looking to hire.

Bayada Home Health Care in Pennsauken is looking for certified home health aides and perspective applicants interested in becoming certified aides with Bayada. Please contact Marcia Stanford at (856) 663-1622 or mstanford@bayada.com.

Edison Retail Solutions in Pennsauken has full time positions available: customer service representatives, die cutter operator, mounting operator, planner commercial print kitting fulfillment, forklift operators and material handlers. Contact (630) 338-9655 or e-mail applications or resumes to hr@edisonlitho.com.

Simmons Foods is a leading supplier of poultry, pet and ingredient products and is the largest supplier of store brand wet pet food in North America. Their Pennsauken location has a dozen open positions, from apprentice technician to warehouse forklift driver. For more information, visit simmonsfoods.com/careers.

Inserts East, a leading commercial printer located in Pennsauken, is seeking candidates for a junior printing role, which assists in a wide range of production activities. The press assistant will remove bundles from the press, count bundles placed on skids and perform tasks such as cleaning or changing press equipment for a new run. Day and night shifts are available. If interested please email hr1@insertseast.com or pick up application at 7045 Central Highway, Pennsauken, NJ.

SolidSurface Designs in Pennsauken is currently looking for experienced countertop installers, helpers, stone fabricators and stone polishers. Please contact Joe at (856) 910-7720 or email at joe@ssdtops.com.

ACCU Staffing Services in Pennsauken is now hiring Warehouse/Production Workers in the Camden County area. Long-term positions with room for growth available! For more information, call (856) 662-2727, e-mail Pennsauken@accustaffing.com or visit 6000 Rte. 38 East Pennsauken, NJ 08109 to apply on-the-spot!

Primerica in Pennsauken is offering a unique entrepreneurial opportunity to START PART-TIME. Get paid for helping others and begin building a business in the financial services industry! For more information, call (856) 910-1100 or visit www.primerica.com/ellis.

Barry Callebaut is the world's leading supplier of high-quality chocolate and cocoa products. Its Pennsauken location has multiple positions in food manufacturing, including machine operators, material handlers, food sanitation helpers and maintenance mechanics. To apply for a position, please visit the site at 1500 Suckle Hwy, Pennsauken NJ weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pepsi Cola and Canada Dry in Pennsauken is hiring merchandisers for Pepsi and CDL-A drivers for Canada Dry. To apply, please fax your resume to (856)661-4684, email it to HRPennsauken@hongrp.com, or stop by the following location to drop one off or complete an application: 8191 N Crescent Blvd, Pennsauken, NJ 08110.

Dietz & Watson, the greatest place to work in Philadelphia, is hiring workers in all areas of our warehouse! If you're looking for a great place to work with friendly people and awesome benefits. Please visit our careers website at <http://dietzandwatson.com/about/careers/> to complete an application.

New York Life in Mount Laurel is looking to fill two positions. College juniors or seniors can join our fall/spring eight-week internship program; they are also hiring agents/financial advisors. No experience required, but you must have a winning attitude and a strong customer service focus. Contact Christina today at (856) 787-4758 or e-mail your resume to: cblackburn01@ft.newyorklife.com.

For more information, e-mail edev@twp.pennsauken.nj.us

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MAYOR'S CORNER Focusing On The Positives Of Our Pennsauken Community



By Jack Killion,
Mayor of
Pennsauken
Township

We've started a new year in Pennsauken. Last month, I was once again sworn in as mayor of this great town; and once again, I am honored and humbled to serve the residents and business owners of our great community.

As I mentioned during last month's reorganization meeting, a focus of Township Committee is promoting the positive things happening throughout Pennsauken. And there's a lot going on to be positive about. Businesses are moving into town and expanding; over 500 vacant properties in Pennsauken have been rehabbed and sold; and we have some pretty amazing people who live in town doing great things. We don't have a perfect town, but we aren't even close to the negative image that some people portray.

So what can we do to accentuate the positive? How do we change the perception of our community? How do we share our Pennsauken pride? It starts with each one of us.

We have a lot of unsung heroes in our community that should be celebrated. A great way to do that is through the newspaper you're holding right now. Each month, All Around Pennsauken highlights the special accomplishments of our residents, business milestones, and more. If you know of an individual, business, or organization making a difference in town, e-mail the paper at aap@twp.pennsauken.nj.us

It's also important to turn negatives into positives. If you have an issue with municipal services, we want to hear from you. It's perfectly normal to want to vent about your frustration. Social media is a good forum for that – maybe a little too good. But while you may feel better, it's not going to solve your problem any faster. If there's an issue with trash pickup, a vacant property, code violations, and the like, you need to let us know. Some folks have had ongoing issues that haven't yet been resolved. Please follow up with us. We're here to serve you, not the other way around. If you need to speak with the mayor, call our Township's municipal building and contact our administrative office. During the work week, I'll get back to you within 24 hours.

And while we're focusing on the positives, it's important to not just put on the rose colored glasses. While the Township does try to be as transparent as possible, we can always do more. One such way is to inform residents and businesses about public safety issues throughout our town. We're working with our police department on a weekly online update to keep you aware of issues – both resolved and ongoing – that will ultimately help keep our community safer. Look for that to begin in the next few weeks.

So in closing, I encourage you to join the members of Township Committee in promoting a positive Pennsauken. Our neighbors making a difference. Our businesses giving back. Our community rallying together. It's always been there. We just have to continue shining a light on it.

Congressman Norcross Visits Pennsauken High School



U.S. Congressman Donald Norcross is giving back to his alma mater, Pennsauken High School, by serving as a member of the school's new electrical construction advisory board, which met last month. He also toured the classrooms for the high school's career technical education (CTE) programs in carpentry, cosmetology, automotive technology, and culinary arts, which are designed to fill the growing need for vocational workers.

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WAGSWORLD The Preparation Of The Bicycle, Redux

By Bob Wagner, AAP Columnist

Each year, for the past five or so years, I have wandered down to the garage, and dusted off my bicycle. I blow up the tires, oil the chain, grease the hubs, and generally tighten and loosen bolts until I feel as if I have prepared for another year of biking adventure. At no time during the past five years have I actually ridden my bike past my front curb.

I could ride the bike. I should ride my bike! But it remains a terrific looking, low mileage, well-oiled invitation to outdoor exercise.

Years ago, when I first acquired the silver beast, I was caught up in the fever of exercise for good health; and I could stick it to the gasoline companies, all the

while getting healthy. What a deal!

I have a three-speed, coaster brake, fat tired, mini mountain bike. It had a big basket up front, but I took it off for some reason, and now it's gone. It has a rear rack for stuff, with a spring that keeps it shut, that still works. And it has a honking big soft gel seat, for added comfort on the 80-foot ride around the parking lot. Added to the original equipment is a single carrier for my big fishing rod, and some clips and Velcro strap to hold down fishing equipment, should I ever leave the premises.

What I do not have is a helmet, colorful, tight, squeeze pants and shirt, or the water bottle back pack. I also took off the little bell on the handle bar. If I ever go back in the street, I'm taking an air horn. Much better for getting someone's

attention on the side streets of America, the air horn. More 18 wheeler than two wheel, that horn.

While the world around me talks of bike lanes, saving the ozone layer, and exercising while wearing silly, tight clothing, I remember telling other like minded bikers that in my neighborhood, riding a bicycle usually meant a DUI. Laughter ensued, and then everyone went outside to compare overpriced carbon fiber bikes, with seats more suited for a colonoscopy than for riding around the neighborhood.

As temperatures slowly rise to a point where I shall only encounter ice in my adult beverage container, I will probably prep the bike once again. Filled with a long winter's stored up energy, I will dream of pedaling to the river. I may even finish the aluminum trailer rig for

my kayak. And I found a bumper mount bike rack for my Jimmy that could let me take all the stuff to sunny Florida. If I do, I will have to find another basket for the bars, to put oranges, lemons, and grapefruits in as I pedal about the neighborhood, picking up fruit from the neighbors' lawns. And, of course, the old guy's prized possession for outdoor activity, the portable, pop up potty tent. Now I'm back to needing the trailer again. Good Lord, all this talk about exercise has me worn to a nub. I'll just put up my portable hammock and take a short nap. Then I can get back to prepping and shopping for another season.

Come on, spring!

PENNSAUKEN FEBRUARY PUBLIC MEETINGS

Township Committee
5:30 p.m. Wednesday,
February 7, 21 and 28

Zoning Board of Adjustment
7:00 p.m. Wednesday,
February 7 and 21

Planning Board
6:30 p.m. Tuesday,
February 6 and 27

Meetings are open to the public and are held at the Pennsauken Municipal Building 5605 Crescent Blvd. (At the corner of Route 130 and Merchantville Avenue)

Annual Irish Nite Fundraiser Held On March 3

Mary, Queen of All Saints Parish is hosting its annual Irish Nite fundraiser on Saturday, March 3 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Msgr. Kavanagh Hall, 48th St. and Camden Ave., Pennsauken. The event, which is BYOB, features an evening of great food and fun. Irish music provided by Balliná; beer and set-ups are provided.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Tables of 10 or more can be reserved. Proceeds go directly to support the parish's annual expenses.

For more information, or to order tickets, call (856) 662-2721, (856) 662-5927, (856) 662-9451, or (856) 662-7422.

Balliná will be the musical entertainment at Mary Queen of All Saints' annual Irish Nite, held on Saturday, Mar. 3 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.



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Crescent Hill Academy Announces Launch Of "Bright Beginnings" Pre-K Program

Crescent Hill Academy, a school that provides students with disabilities opportunities to not only learn, but also gain independence, announces the launch of its "Bright Beginnings" pre-kindergarten program. "Bright Beginnings" fills a real need locally, as this is the only program of its kind in South Jersey.

"Crescent Hill Academy is a school that caters to each child's needs to the fullest extent, encouraging them in the least restrictive environment possible," says Al Minicozzi, executive director. "We know that parents are looking to give their children the most assistance at the earliest age. And studies show that young minds benefit from an earlier start to education. With our 'Bright Beginnings' program, we can now offer pre-k students that have special needs crucial exposure to an enriching curriculum and lifestyle."

"Bright Beginnings" provides an immersed, multi-level pre-school experience for special needs children in a small classroom setting. The program, which is either half- or full-day, strives for success through a curriculum based on sensory integration, music, art, therapy, physical and occupational skills, speech, and language based activities.

A wide variety of studies, including the Perry Preschool Study and Abecedarian Early Childhood Intervention Project, two of the most-often cited studies showing the long-term benefits of early childhood education, show that providing educational instruction earlier in life offers children better preparation and success in secondary education, as well as



Pennsauken's Crescent Hill Academy has launched its "Bright Beginnings" Pre-K program for children with special needs.

more opportunities in adulthood. As Crescent Hill Academy offers a focus on allowing children to be as independent as possible, an early start to education and

therapy is crucial to help young minds – and bodies – with special needs to learn, grow, develop, and achieve.

Parents interested in learning more about "Bright Beginnings" for their children – which can be offered at no cost to families – can schedule a tour of the facility by calling (856) 662-7300, ext. 210.

Crescent Hill Academy, located at 7512 N. Crescent Blvd. in Pennsauken, was founded by Alfred Minicozzi more than 40 years ago for his daughter, Rose Ellen, who has cerebral palsy. Today, the non-profit, run by his son, Al, has a personal commitment to providing a high quality education for children with special needs.

Crescent Hill Academy is fully accredited by the New Jersey Department of Special Education and has a three to one ratio of expert teachers, aides and therapists to aid students ages 3-21. The school welcomes students with minor to severe conditions and plans the curriculum accordingly, grouping students with their peers in both age and needs. Programs and services include: individualized special education; speech language therapy that integrates New Jersey Core

Curriculum content standards; physical therapy designed to help every student reach their physical potential; occupational and job therapy to promote maximum independence and productivity; and a six-week summer program that incorporates activities like field trips with prescribed academic and therapeutic programs.

For more information, visit CrescentHillAcademy.org.

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**All Around
Pennsauken**

Editor: FRANK SINATRA

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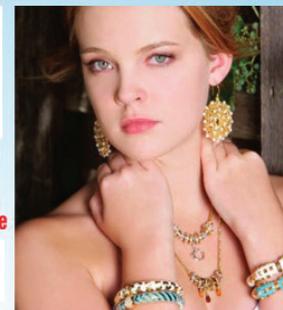
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All Around Pennsauken Launches Weekly Roundup Live Video On Facebook

All Around Pennsauken has started a brand new feature to for our followers on Facebook: the AAP Weekly Roundup! Each Friday, All Around Pennsauken editor Frank Sinatra holds a live Facebook video highlighting some of the week's happenings and letting you know about upcoming events in and around town.

"We post a lot online stories in be-

tween print editions, but these live videos help us interact with our readers in a brand new way," says Sinatra. "We hope that our Facebook fans join us for a unique way to get local news."

The AAP Weekly Roundup occurs every Friday around noon. To view a new weekly installment, or to watch past videos, visit www.facebook.com/AllAroundPennsauken.

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CLERKS

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By Gene Padalino
Township of Pennsauken Clerk

Application for 2018 Dog Licences

Name of Owner _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Cell No. _____ Number of Dogs at this address _____

Dog's Name _____

M/F ___ Dog's Age _____ Breed _____

Length of Dog's Hair (Circle one) SHORT MEDIUM LONG

Color and Markings _____

Altered (Circle one) Yes / No Date _____

Rabies Inoculation Expiration Date _____

As of the first Monday in February, all dog license renewals are late and a \$10 late fee will be assessed.

FEES: \$12 if the dog has been spayed or neutered (altered)/\$15 if not spayed or neutered (altered). Renew by mail: fill out form and enclose a check or money order for the exact amount made payable to the Township of Pennsauken and mail it to Attn: Twp. Clerk's Office, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. Pennsauken, NJ 08110. **Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and copies for proof of rabies inoculation.** Renew in person between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Township Clerk's office. Any questions please call 856-665-1000 x122.

State regulations consider a dog's vaccination valid only if it DOES NOT expire before Nov. 1 of the current year and failure to obtain or renew a dog license could result in a court summons.

For advertising rates & information call 662-5100
or email allaroundpenn@aol.com

Please Return Borrowed Wheelchairs To Township



Pennsauken Township offers wheelchairs and walkers for seniors in temporary need of them. Currently, all of these wheelchairs are out. Anyone who has borrowed a wheelchair or walker and is done with them is asked to return them as quickly as possible so that other seniors can use them. The Township is also accepting donations of wheelchairs and walkers in good condition that are no longer in use.

For additional information,
call Pennsauken's
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Welsh Heritage Day At Griffith Morgan House On March 4

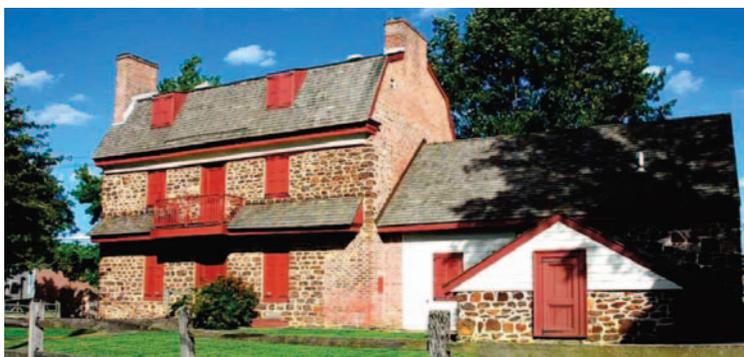


By Robert Fisher-Hughes,
AAP Columnist and
Amateur Historian

The Welsh heritage of the Morgan family that built and occupied historic Griffith Morgan House, among the earliest colonial homesteads in the area, provides the theme of the first public event of the year at Pennsauken's historic homes. On Sunday, March 4, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., music, cookery, culture and history of Wales will fill the old Morgan house with song and poetry, dragons and castles, bards and pirates, myth and history!

Did you know that the traditional instrument of Welsh music is the harp? That cheese features in much of the simple, farmhouse fare of traditional Welsh cuisine, along with a soup or stew known as cawl and hearthstone baked Welsh cakes? Did you know that a number of the notable captains of the golden age of piracy were Welsh? All these features of Welsh culture and history will be demonstrated at Welsh Heritage Day, along with many others!

Learn more of the lore and history of this fascinating, tiny nation. Have a taste



of traditional Welsh foods. Discover the range of Welsh music. Learn a phrase or two of Cymric, the ancient Welsh language. Let the kids make a Welsh-themed craft to take home. In the Welsh tongue, "croeso!" You are welcome!

Don't miss Welsh Heritage Day at Griffith Morgan House! The next "First Sunday" event at both Burrough-Dover House and Griffith Morgan House will not be held until the first Sunday in May, on the 6th, due to the scheduling of the Easter holiday in April!

Griffith Morgan House is located at 243 Griffith Morgan Lane, off River Rd. between Delair and Route 73. Admis-

sion and tours are free and there is also plenty of free parking available. In addition, the Griffith Morgan House is also open for tours and research by appointment throughout the year.

Visit the Griffith Morgan House and Pennsauken Historical Society pages, or the group, "Pennsauken History Forum," on Facebook for more details and directions; or call (856) 486-9561 and leave a message or e-mail to pennsaukenhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Be sure to contact Pennsauken Historical Society or Griffith Morgan Committee about volunteer opportunities; you too can make history!

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Pennsauken Public Schools Topic At February PMAC Luncheon

Pennsauken High School teachers William Finnegan and Billy Snyder will be the guest speakers at the upcoming Pennsauken-Merchantville

Area Chamber of Commerce (P.M.A.C.) networking luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at Marco's at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd. Finnegan and Snyder will be speaking

about the upcoming bond referendum vote on March 13 and how it impacts the Pennsauken community. They will also talk about the importance of public schools and businesses working together

to help students succeed in their future endeavors.

Sign-in begins at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 14, with the meeting starting at noon. Admission is \$25 for members, \$35 for non-

members. Attendees are asked

R.S.V.P. to Nancy Ellis at (856) 438-0833 or pmac1team@gmail.com by Monday, Feb. 12.

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Pennsauken High School teachers William Finnegan and Billy Snyder will be the guest speakers at the upcoming P.M.A.C. luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 14. They will be discussing the upcoming bond referendum vote on March 13 and its impact on the Pennsauken community.

Airborne Systems Awarded \$26 Million Marine Corps Contract

Last month, Airborne Systems of Pennsauken was officially awarded the contract for an Enhanced Multi-Mission Parachute System (E-MMPS) for the United States Marine Corps (USMC). The contract, which was competitively procured via the Federal Business Opportunities website, is worth over \$26 million.

"This is a significant win for Airborne Systems. It expands our customer base and signifies the trust in our design and ingenuity," a press release on the company's website stated. "We are constantly providing the best technology available worldwide, and when that technology does not exist, we develop it ourselves. Airborne Systems is thrilled not only to meet the unique and specific requirements of the USMC, but also to offer the newest technology currently available for tactical operations in the world. We are confident in our products and are honored to have been chosen by the USMC for this opportunity."

The E-MMPS, which will be replace the legacy Multi-Mission Parachute System currently used by the Marines, is equipped with an Airborne Systems proprietary Hi-5 canopy, the latest Airborne



Pennsauken-based Airborne Systems was awarded a five-year, \$26 million contract to provide an Enhanced Multi-Mission Parachute System for the United States Marine Corps.

Systems free fall parachute canopy designed specifically for high altitude high opening missions. The system will also include an Edge harness container, as well as an attachable military working dog harness. Airborne Systems will provide training services, commercial manuals, and all necessary support to ensure the successful fielding of this new parachute system.

All work will be performed in Pennsauken and is expected to be complete by January 5, 2023.

Tippin's Pond Cleanup Scheduled For March 3

A community cleanup of Tippin's Pond is scheduled for Saturday, March 3 at 10:00 a.m., weather pending.

Volunteers will be picking up trash and cleaning brush from the nature trails, fishing dock and pond. Attendees are asked to wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, and appropriate footwear for

muddy and uneven terrain. Participants are also encouraged to bring their own work gloves. Children who volunteer must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, visit "Pennsauken's Nature Committee" on Facebook.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS Pennsauken's Clayton Turns Passion For Sneakers Into Social Media Career



Pennsauken native John Clayton is the manager of social media for Champ Sports.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

When John Clayton was attending Pennsauken High School, he never re-

alized that one day, he'd be working on marketing campaigns that involved NFL star Cam Newton and rap artist 2 Chainz. Today, Clayton, '05 is the manager of social media for Champ Sports, using online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to promote brands and drive sales.

"I graduated, went to college, and wound up having a daughter," explains Clayton. "I went to work and really started getting into sneakers. I was involved with the social media community, including Kicksonfire.com. I went on their internship and then got a job with SneakerVilla in Philly. I worked as hard as I could to enhance my credibility. I also worked with Pat Walsh, who's pretty influential in the back channels of the sneaker industry."

John uses social media and marketing techniques to influence a kid named "Traun." Traun isn't a real person; instead, he's what research indicates is Champs Sports' key target audience, a

high school student, ages 14-18, who's a pinnacle athlete and big into fashion, culture, and sports. Taylor develops a social media plan that uses popular music, sports, art – and sneakers – to influence Traun's purchasing habits.

"I love the brand side and the story telling," explains Clayton. "You can buy sneakers at six places at the mall, but what makes you come to our store? That's where the story telling comes in. It's huge – a key component – and makes you coming back for more."

John appreciates his teachers, like Tom Honeyman and Damon Redden, who encouraged him to hone the skills he uses today.

"I was young and rambunctious; they helped me hone my energy and creativity into writing to paint pictures with words."

When he visits town, he still hangs out with friends he spent hours playing Ultimate Frisbee with at the Walt

Nicorski Sports Complex. He also grabs a bite at Hua Cheng Kitchen.

"I always go back to Pennsauken. Living there was essential. I was in the mid-

dle of a lot of influential places and met a bunch of people that helped move my career forward."

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It's Time To Play "Pennsaukenopoly!"

In conjunction with the town's 125th anniversary last year, Pennsauken has created "Pennsaukenopoly," a special keepsake board game.

"Visit" some of the great places and businesses in Pennsauken and enjoy a fun, competitive game for the whole family.

Games are just \$30 and all proceeds from the sale of "Pennsaukenopoly" will go to support local charitable initiatives. Currently, over \$1,000 has been raised to help those in need.

For more information, or to purchase



The "Pennsaukenopoly" is a fun, competitive game for the whole family. All proceeds from the sale of the game will go to local charitable initiatives.

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SENIORCORNER Staying Active And Healthy During The Winter Important For Seniors

By Sonny DiSabato,
Senior Citizen Coordinator

Hello fellow seniors.
Winter and senior citizens aren't a

great combination, but we shouldn't resign ourselves to becoming "coach potatoes" and plopping ourselves in front of the TV. Cold weather shouldn't be used as an excuse to slow down. Rather, the

winter season is the perfect time to focus on being fit and healthy.

There are plenty of exercises seniors can do in the comfort of their own home to improve strength, flexibility, and bal-

ance. Some ideas are "chair aerobics," toe raises at the kitchen counter, or using a treadmill for cardio if you have one. If you're looking to get out of the house, join a mall walking club. And don't worry; if you haven't begun an exercise program, it's never too late to start. Just be sure to take it easy when beginning and be sure to check with your doctor first.

Also, don't let the wintertime be an excuse to not go to the doctor, regardless if it's a checkup or you're not feeling well. To get the most out of your doctor's visits, here are some helpful tips.

When they talk to you, doctors can get a little too technical. If you don't understand, ask them to slow down or explain it another way.

Don't let the doctor leave the examining room until you have a firm grasp of what you need to do next. Make sure you know what the doctor wants you to do and find out if you need to schedule a follow-up appointment.

Come prepared. Make sure you have everything you need for your visit, from your insurance card to any recent test results.

It can be tough retaining all the important information from your doctor visits. Bring a family member or a friend with you to help keep things straight.

Camden County Senior Center

The Carol C. Norcross Senior Social Wellness Center in Blackwood offers opportunities for Camden County seniors to remain active and socially engaged. I don't have to tell you how important this is, particularly during colder months, when it's tougher to get out.

Services and activities at the Senior Social Wellness Center include door-to-door transportation, lunch and nutrition programs, ceramics, woodworking, needlecraft, sewing, painting, board and parlor games, movement programs, educational and community service programs, health screening information and referral services, social services assistance, and daily grocery and personal shopping trips. For more information, call (856) 858-3220.

Wishing you good health and happiness. Please say a special prayer for our men and women in the Armed Forces.

Tax Help Available At Pennsauken Library In February

The Pennsauken Free Public Library is once again hosting AARP Tax Help sessions. This free service begins on Thursday, Feb. 1, in the Library's Community Room and will be offered Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., through April 12.

Residents taking advantage of this service need to bring last year's completed return with them. In addition, residents will need to bring a photo ID, their social security card, and the social security information of any dependents.

Residents can set up an appointment by calling (856) 477-3342 and leaving your name, phone number, and best time

to be contacted. Someone will call back to set up an appointment; these individuals are not tax preparers and cannot answer tax questions. Please note that you CANNOT call the Library to schedule a time to have your taxes done. If you do not set up an appointment via phone, tax preparation is done on a first come, first served basis, with preference given to seniors.

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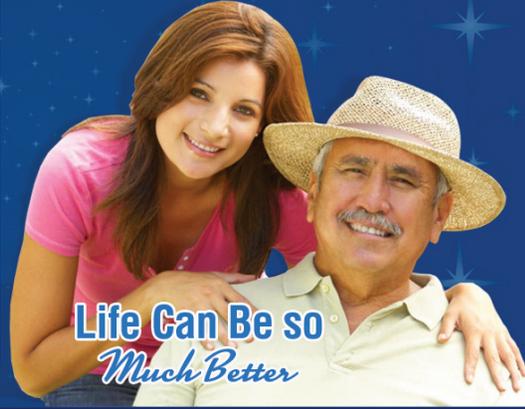
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GRAYMATTERS

The Times Of Our Lives

By Judith Kristen, AAP Columnist

"Friends, Romans, countrymen..." Sorry, I read far too much Shakespeare over the holidays.

Why? Well, here's how it goes. Reading someone else's stuff is a great joy and an equal relief to someone who writes for a living. I escape elsewhere; I hear and see new visions of people, places, and things; and I also learn a few new words along the way. For a wordsmith, THAT is the ultimate bell ringer, although I highly doubt I'll ever use the words "swoltery" or "kickie-wickie" in a sentence anytime soon. Still, they're nice to know. Thank you, Mr. Shakespeare.

As for this month's column, I had all but given up on writing one and was about to ask my boss, Frank Sinatra, to re-run one of my old February columns along with a sincere apology to my readers that my mind came up blank. Actually, I did write three columns for this month, but I wasn't crazy about any of them. They were okay... they just didn't have the feel to it that I like.

I wrote one about the usual Valentine stuff, and canned that one. Then I wrote one about the crazy weather, and stiffed that one too. The last was about The Eagles and I almost wanted that to go to the presses, and then decided against that one as well.

BUT, inspiration finally came! Yesterday I stopped in to McFarlan's Market; and, as always, I was greeted by my pals, Omega, Ross, Felicia, and Wendy.

Wendy walked by me a bit later on while I was waiting for an order at the deli and we talked. And the conversation was all about "time." You know, how fast Christmas had come and gone, and how quickly the stores are filling already with Valentine and St. Paddy's Day things... how we hadn't seen each

other in two weeks... and how fast the time has flown since her brother's passing 13 years ago, and that it will be three years in May since I lost my son, Jon.

Time flies.

Yes, indeed.

Seems like one day you're getting ready to graduate high school and a few weeks later, you're watching your own daughter walk down the aisle... then there's the birth of your first grandchild that seems like yesterday, and the boy is now a teenager. Or my 70th birthday coming up in April! SAY WHAT!?! Time, time, time.

And you know there are as many quotes about the ticking of life's clock as there are about love. I'm sure there's a connection in that somewhere.

A few of my favorites are:

"The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once." - Albert Einstein

"Don't be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of. One man gets only a week's value out of a year while another man gets a full year's value out of a week." - Charles Richards

"Better three hours too soon, than one minute too late." - My friend, William Shakespeare

And to my other friend over there at McFarlan's, Wendy, I thank you for being such a good soul and for feeding my head as well as well as my spirit, and for always pointing me in the direction of all the new pastry arrivals. I also thank you for the "time" that we spend together and for being the inspiration behind this column.

Your timing was perfect!

Peace and Love and all good things... to everyone!

See you next month, just in "time" for St. Paddy's Day! ~ Love, Judy

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inSchool

Pennsauken High School Holds First Semester Science Fair

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

On Jan. 11, Pennsauken High School held its first semester science fair. I decided to visit my old alma mater to see what the buzz was about.

Almost 100 students set up displays on some seriously cool topics; from the science behind what a soft drink will do to an egg (spoiler alert: you'll rethink drinking soda), all the way to understanding and studying leaf pigmentation.

The auditorium was bustling with students explaining their experiments, faculty dutifully observing, and proud parents snapping pictures of their science-savvy teens.

I got to speak with student Kaitlin So-

rriano, who, along with classmate Terrance Philips, presented a display on heat diffusion. Their experiment showed why a balloon filled with water would take longer to burst than ones filled with other substances. Soriano explained how salt water popped much faster when exposed to fire than regular water. She beamed with pride next to her presentation. Kaitlin and Terrance did a great job.

Student scientist Aleksis Knaus presented a display on blood spatter analysis that was as graphic as it was detailed. It explained how forensic scientists can uncover clues about a crime just from blood patterns at the crime scene. Aleksis, along with all the other participating stu-

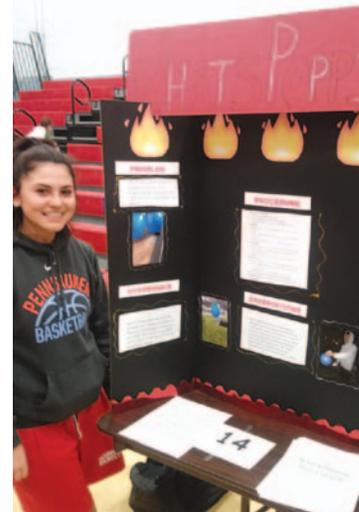
dents, presented a hypothesis statement, research data, materials, their process, and their conclusions in perfect scientific fashion.

If you missed the chance to visit the science fair this semester, don't fret! There will be a second semester science fair held later this year.

All the student scientists involved deserve a round of applause for taking part in such a fun and educational event!

For the list of students who won prizes during the first semester science fair, visit AllAroundPennsauken.com.

Kaitlin Soriano was among almost 100 students who created outstanding projects for Pennsauken High School's first semester science fair.



Pennsauken Public Schools Open On Presidents' Day

The Pennsauken School District has currently had two snow days for the 2017-2018 school year. The makeup day for the second school closure is Presidents' Day, Monday Feb. 19. Pennsauken Public Schools will be OPEN that day and classes will be on a regular schedule.

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, MEd², M.S., M.B.S., Ed.D., Superintendent, Pennsauken Public Schools

As we start 2018, I would like to first thank the educators and students for their continued efforts in making Pennsauken Public Schools the model district of New Jersey. Our elementary schools continue to thrive and our students are showing that their young minds are as brilliant as they are curious. The Park Avenue Campus, including the Intermediate School and Phifer Middle School, has created learning opportunities for our students that enhances both their academic and leadership skills. Our high school students have shown that they can compete with any school district in New Jersey, continuously showcasing their talents and intellect.

Motivating Performances From Our Students

We house great young minds and ath-

The Start Of A New Year In Pennsauken Schools

letes here in Pennsauken Public Schools; here are three of many examples. First, Shayla Sweeney, a phenomenal student, broke the girl's basketball career scoring record in Pennsauken High School, along with earning a basketball scholarship to La Salle University. Secondly, honor roll student Jade Pope has the number two high jump in the entire state of New Jersey and is ranked 12th in the United States of America. Last and certainly not least, Braheem Whitfield made the honor roll three consecutive times – turning a positive corner academically. He is also a leader of the New Jersey state ranked boys track team in sprint relays and has many colleges and universities wooing him to compete at the next level.

The Future Of Pennsauken Public Schools

As we move forward with our referendum, I would like to thank the public

for coming out on Jan. 15, as we discussed the referendum in detail, in particular its positive impact on the Longfellow community. I, along with the Board of Education members Mr. Perry, Mrs. James, and Mrs. Young, presented the referendum in detail and its potential impact to Pennsauken and its residents. I would like to also remind the public that we have several events scheduled to inform the community about the upcoming referendum.

On Saturday, Feb. 10, from 2:00-5:00 p.m., there will be a referendum dinner and meeting at The Pub. We will be promoting the referendum and honoring a great educator, Mr. Dennis Armento, a Pennsauken High School teacher who passed away in 2016. There will be a special price for your meal during this time. For more details, visit Growning-PennsaukenSchools.com.

On Monday, Feb. 19 at 7:00 p.m., we will be meeting at Roosevelt Elemen-

tary School to discuss these proposed initiatives, focusing on the high tech high school in particular and going over other specifics of the referendum.

On March 10, we will be meeting at the Pennsauken Country Club on Had-donfield Rd., just three days before this historic vote.

Please come out and join us to hear about how we will put close to \$36 million into our district and decrease taxes by \$11.06. Remember, this referendum is not for one building; it completes the entire district. Some of the changes include a full day pre-kindergarten at no cost to residents; middle school renovations to include three new science laboratories and six new classrooms; complete renovation of our athletic fields at the high school including lights, eight-lane track, and all purpose turf field; new classrooms and desperately needed changes to our flagship high school building; the development of Pennsauken's high tech (mag-

net) high school; a state of the art park at Longfellow; and security vestibules in every school within our district. These are just some of the changes you will see with this referendum.

We invite all Pennsauken residents to come out, ask questions, and truly learn what this game changing referendum is about.

Spend Time With The Super

Please join me for "Coffee and Questions with the Superintendent," taking place this month on Monday, Feb. 12, 5:00-6:30 p.m. before the board meeting at the main office area of Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd. This is a time where concerned parents or Pennsauken residents can come and ask questions regarding any topic within the school district.

Phifer Musicians Excel During Winter Concert

On Dec. 20, Phifer Middle School musicians held their annual holiday concert to a packed auditorium on Park Ave. After months of preparation, the students, under the direction of conductors Dyan Conklin and Jack Franchi, shared the culmination of months of rehearsal for a nearly full auditorium of their families, Pennsauken community members, and Phifer faculty, as well as current and former students.

The concert was filled with a varied repertoire, ranging from more traditional classical and multicultural pieces to holiday favorites, featuring the school's curricular ensembles of seventh and eighth grade choirs, concert band, and orchestra; as well as the extracurricular jazz band, Phifer chorale, and spotlight singers.

Preparing for this annual event starts in September, with students dedicating much of their free time both in and out of school to practice and prepare. By the second week of school, singers and instrumentalists are learning new techniques, working to perfect what they already know and digging into new music.

"Even though concert preparations may have started slow and early in the school year, everyone worked hard and rose to the occasion to put on a great show for the community," says Logan Endes, eighth grade instrumentalist and singer. "I know our spring performance will be even better!"

While many of Phifer's musicians



Ms. Dyan Conklin directs the Phifer chorale during this year's winter concert.

have studied voice or an instrument in the past, not everyone comes with musical experience. However, each student, regardless of level, is welcomed and encouraged to participate.

This winter's program included approximately 200 middle school students, almost one quarter of the school population.

"The first step with most young singers is getting them confident in using their voice as part of the ensemble, listening to themselves and others around them, and building technique to make them a success. Many students come to me with no singing experience but know they want to try singing. Over time, we work on breathing for singing, tone quality, and expression to better the musical experience for ourselves and our audience. Once our students achieve this sense of pride in their hard work, they're hooked and can't wait to move for-

ward," said Ms. Conklin.

"The most work for instrumental students is the instrument itself," said Mr. Franchi. "You have this crazy, complicated piece of wood or metal that is set

up to be so precise and you have to know all of the different finger positions or how to aim your face muscles so that it's the correct note. No middle schooler is going to completely own their instrument. I still work on it myself. Every musician does."

Recruitment into the music program is ongoing throughout the school year, as students become interested in what their peers are doing. Many are thinking beyond middle school.

"Being a part of the Phifer music program has given me the tools I need to become a better musician and performer," says eighth grade singer Grace Raymond. "I'm looking forward to continuing in that direction at Pennsauken High School."

One of the goals that Ms. Conklin and Mr. Franchi have is to prepare students for the thriving music programs at the high school, getting them excited about continuing music study. Regular, structured rehearsal, quality practice time, valuable and interesting repertoire, and several performing opportunities are some of the way this happens.

Phifer students and staff look forward to a full spring agenda, including the second annual Pennsauken Choir Festival, the spring concert, and the High Note Music Festival at Dorney Park. The music department is excited for the coming season. Look for these upcoming events on the Phifer Middle School website at Pennsauken.net and be sure to attend!

Board of Education Meeting

The Pennsauken Township Board of Education will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m. at Pennsauken High School, Room #327, 800 Hylton Rd., Pennsauken, N.J. 08110. The public is invited to attend.

Prior to the meeting at the Administrative Office, Dr. Tarchichi will hold the monthly "Coffee and Conversation with the Superintendent" from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the main office area of the high school. During this time, parents or residents can come and ask questions regarding any topic within the school district.

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PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:

Nicole Roberts, Editor nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net



A New Culture And Future Vision Of The Pennsauken Board Of Education

By the Pennsauken Board of Education: Nick Perry, President; Diane Johnson, Vice President; Michael Bortnowski; Cheryl Duffy; Michael Hurley; Maria James; Orlando Viera; and JoAnn Young

One of the main goals of the Pennsauken Board of Education is to engage the community regarding the innovative

and positive changes happening within our school district. In a three-year period, we have witnessed a culture shift within the District, moving towards an advanced education system that creates a thriving learning environment for students with all different interests. Our vision can be reflected in the adopted mission statement, district goals, and board beliefs that are updated on an annual basis.

With the leadership of our board president, superintendent, and business administrator, the Pennsauken Board of Education is ensuring every Pennsauken scholar has the tools to succeed in the classroom, the future workplace, and into adulthood.

Academy programs have been implemented to build on marketable subjects such as health sciences and engineering. The new or expanded career and technical education (CTE) programs, culinary arts, cosmetology, automotive, and carpentry, were opened at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. We are already seeing such positive results and feedback with all of these initiatives and the district is excited to move forward with implementing electrical and welding programs for next year.

The ground work was set into place during the 2015-2016 school year to enhance Pennsauken's literacy programs, improve overall mathematics skills, and build the next generation of students ex-

celling in the sciences. The instructional programs are aligned with core curriculum standards and are continually being measured for progress and continuous improvement.

With the leadership of the superintendent, the Pennsauken School District has moved to block scheduling, giving students the opportunity to master subject matter with extended teaching instruction. Also, articulation agreements with Camden County College and Rowan College at Burlington County allow for dual college credit courses right at the high school! New academic programs offered are criminal justice, business, I.T., and courses in advance calculus, mathematics, and science. There are also courses in place to move towards a future nursing academy.

The summer of 2017 brought a new and very successful enrichment program for our Pennsauken students. This was open to all students who lived in the Township and all seats were completely filled to capacity. This new program helped all attendees obtain a better knowledge of subject matter over the summer, assisted high school students in increasing their SAT scores, and improved collaboration between parents, staff, and students, setting the tone for future success.

So much has been accomplished to date, but more work lies ahead to ensure that the needs of all students are met in

the school district. A Bond referendum has been presented and will be voted on in March 13. All information about the bond referendum can be found on the Pennsauken Schools webpage. There will be two main bond referendum public meetings this month, the first on Feb. 10 at The Pub at 2:00 p.m.; and the second on Feb. 19 at Roosevelt Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. We encourage all Pennsauken residents to attend these meetings to learn more about the District's plan to grow and improve all of Pennsauken's public schools.

Board Bit Of The Month

As of time of publication, the Pennsauken School District has had two snow days for the 2017-2018 school year. The makeup day for the second school closure is Presidents' Day, Monday Feb. 19. Pennsauken Public Schools will be open that day and classes will be on a regular schedule.

Look Out For Lots Of Lion Loot At Longfellow!

Longfellow School students have lots of opportunities for fun and prizes by earning Lion Loot!

The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program is designed to help students increase their positive school behavior in order to create a more welcoming, calm, friendly and learning-centered school climate. Teachers and staff reward the students with Lion Loot when they act in ways that show respect for their teachers, classmates, school, and learning environment. Students save their Lion Loot for special reward activities and have lots of opportunities for classroom and school-wide fun.

Here are some of the upcoming prizes: dress up days with hats, slippers, or special clothing; lunch with a teacher or Principal Gery; a homework pass; stuffed animal day; participation in Longfellow's school wide luau in June; and many, many more!

The staff at Longfellow is extremely proud of the positive behavior shown by students and look forward to handing out Lion Loot to many respectful boys and girls!

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Fourth Graders At Roosevelt Work On Research And Technology Projects

The fourth grade classes at Roosevelt Elementary School have worked on a number of projects this year that have required them to use technology in different ways.

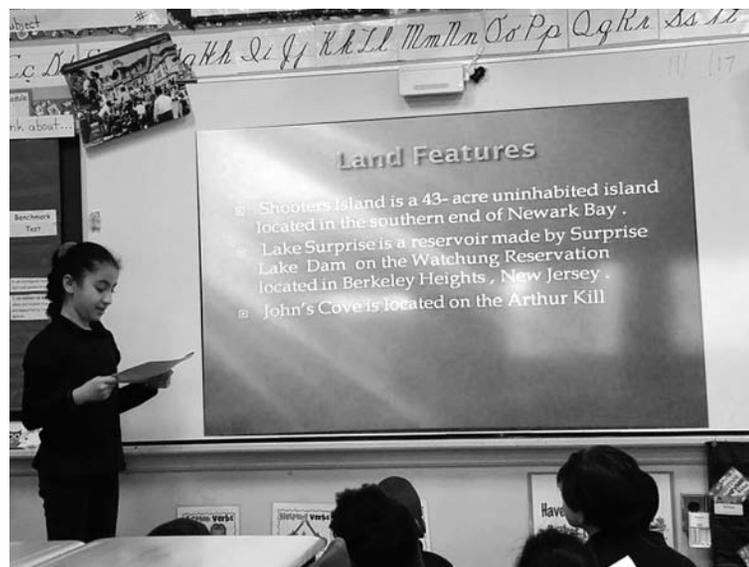
In September, students completed a research project for Hispanic Heritage Month, using search engines, informational websites, and online encyclopedias to gather facts and information about the famous Hispanic Americans. They then presented this information to the rest of the school during a special celebration in October.

Classes also completed a New Jersey county research project. Students were each assigned a different county in New Jersey. Again, students used various online resources to find specific information about their assigned county. They then took the research information, along with maps and images, to create Microsoft PowerPoint presentations.

Students used the interactive whiteboard in their classroom to show their presentations to classmates, parents, and teachers.

Most recently, the fourth grade students have been preparing for Black History Month by working on their annual "Blacks In Wax" presentations. The students all selected a famous African American to research, using online biographies to gather information about that person and create timelines of the individual's life in Microsoft Word. Students will then use their timelines to create an informational speech. These speeches will be given during a special assembly, where students will dress up as the person they have researched and give speeches from that person's point of view.

The students have been doing a great job with their research projects! Keep up the good work!



As one of several research projects completed throughout this school year, fourth grade students at Roosevelt researched different counties throughout New Jersey and gave PowerPoint presentations to their class.

Roosevelt Third Graders Celebrate "Holidays Around Pennsauken"

Mrs. James and Ms. Vespers' third grade students at Roosevelt School performed a "Holidays Around Pennsauken" show for parents and students in December. Students researched and learned about various holidays such as Ramadan, Chinese New Year, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Three Kings Day, and

Christmas. They have worked hard learning about other cultures and traditions, as well as memorizing their lines. Not only did they learn about the basic traditions, they learned what type of music and dress is appropriate for each holiday. Way to go Roosevelt third graders!

In December, third graders at Roosevelt performed a "Holidays Around Pennsauken" show for parents and students.

Phifer Students Destined For Greatness



Phifer Middle School recognized students "Destined for Greatness" for the month of December. Congratulations to Tiffany Luu, Henry Tomasso, Remy Trinh, Dalia Abou Harb, Kahlil Ali, Mackenzie Gallo, Noemi Guevara, Sharee Battle, Renny Rodriguez, Dymond Patterson, Nick Arce, Jalen Taylor, Stephanie Pham, Amirah Bettis, and Devon King.

Ready... Set... Melt!



The students in Mrs. Maureen Wagner's class at Carson Elementary School used their sharp science skills to observe and make predictions during an "ice exploration experiment."

Delair Student Council Visits Food Bank Of South Jersey

Student council members from Delair Elementary School visited the Food Bank of South Jersey to learn about where food donations went and how they were used in the community.

Student council advisors Mrs. Clowers and Ms. Warner accompanied student council representatives from grades 2 through 4. This trip was a culmination of the food drive held at Delair during the month of December; all students who gave to the food drive were allowed to dress down on the day before winter break.

The food drive was a very successful service effort and staff and students at Delair look forward to continuing to serve their local community. Each student at Delair is striving to be a H.E.R.O.: helpful, engaged, respectful, and on task.



Members of Delair's student council visited the Food Bank of South Jersey in Pennsauken to see how the donations from their recent food drive benefit the community.



If you have a FINANCIAL EMERGENCY you may be eligible for a one-time-only grant from Pennsauken Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Applications are available for pick up at the Library or through pennsaukenneighbors.org. Phone messages are also accepted at 856-397-6282.

All completed applications must be mailed to Neighbors Helping Neighbors, P.O. Box 258, Pennsauken, NJ 08110.

Developing Writing Skills At Carson

Mrs. Hardy's third grade class at Carson has been busy with writing this year! Students are very enthusiastic about process writing, and look forward to sharing their published pieces upon completion of each unit.

The class has learned how writers gather their ideas, as well as how to write paragraphs, personal narratives, and opinion/persuasive pieces. Students will embark on nonfiction responses, along with summarizing for our next unit.

The class is working on becoming superb writers and they're having an extraordinary school year!

Mrs. Hardy's third grade class at Carson is developing important writing skills.



Mrs. Irwin's Class Accomplishments

Mrs. Irwin's first grade class at Carson School has had a wonderful first half of the school year! Students are learning how to read longer and more challenging books, add and subtract quickly, and write stories.

In December, the class had a great time visiting the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, learning about dinosaurs and animal habitats.



Mrs. Irwin's first grade class at Carson School has had a wonderful first half of the school year!

In the second half of the year, students are looking forward to the Read Across America celebration, Jump Rope for Heart, and Space Day, in addition to learning more about science and the world in which they live. Also, congratulations to Damara Rivera, Joshua Herrera-Acevedo, and Alaya Gatewood for receiving the student of the month awards so far this year!

Using Math To Bake At Carson



Students in the gifted and talented program at Carson School applied their multiplication, fraction, and measuring skills while baking pumpkin rolls. The goodies were then donated to the PTA for the bake sale, which was held during our parent conference. What a tasty way to learn!

Longfellow Students Take Imaginary Trips To Spanish Speaking Countries

Welcome aboard! Students at Longfellow School are having imaginary trips to all the Spanish speaking countries. Under the instruction of Spanish teacher Kataria Ortiz, students had the opportunity to use a map and locate all the countries, color their flags, and discuss important information about them. In the Spanish classroom, students are not only learning the language, but are also excited to learn about different cultures and traditions. ¡Buen viaje!



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Restoring Our Town, One Vacant Property At A Time



By Tracey Howarth,
Pennsauken Township

Twenty-one months ago, we embarked on a journey to rid our town of empty deteriorating properties that seemed to be plaguing our neighborhoods. The Township was determined to get these properties sold, put back into good livable condition and occupied. We wanted to restore our town back to the place where so many of us grew up and where we chose to stay and raise our own families; a place where neighbors were your extended family and lifelong friendships were born.

That was the mission. And I'm very happy to share with everyone where we are in our mission.

The number we started with was 621. Six hundred and twenty-one properties that were either vacant or believed to be vacant throughout town. Of those original 621 properties, 565 have been sold. Ninety-one percent of the original properties have been sold; and 80 percent of those properties are being rehabbed, with new roofs, new kitchens or baths, new siding, or all of the above. They are then either being flipped to new owners or being occupied by the person who bought the property.

In total, 630 properties have been sold. If we only had 621 to start with, how are 630 sold? If you recall in some earlier articles, we mentioned that the Township

not only registers and tracks vacant properties, but also registers and tracks foreclosures. That is where the additional sales have come from.

I'm sure you're also thinking, "If all these properties have been sold, why is there still one in my neighborhood or right next to my house?" In many cases, the investors or contractors who have purchased these homes are buying more than one at a time. However, they may be rehabbing them only one at a time. Just because a house is empty does not always mean that it is considered legally vacant. But rest assured if it is empty, the Township is still doing its best to hold those owners accountable. These properties will still be inspected and violation notices will still be sent out.

When Pennsauken Township first entered into the shared service agreement with Camden County and Community Champions, there was some hesitancy about our commitment to double our fee structure. We felt we needed to send the message to the banks and owners that Pennsauken would no longer be an inexpensive place to have a vacant home. We wanted to create a sense of urgency with the banks and owners to pay the fee and get the property sold or it was going to start costing them much more money to operate in Pennsauken. Well, our strategy worked. The banks and property owners got the message.

Do not make the mistake of thinking that it will be cheaper to leave a property in Pennsauken vacant and use your resources elsewhere.

Because of the time we save by using the Community Champions software program, the Township has been able to refocus its efforts into inspection and maintenance. We currently have 410 properties on notice for property maintenance violations. That equates to over 3,300 individual violations written on vacant and foreclosed properties. The biggest benefit of taking our registration process online was the ability to identify the property maintenance companies for all these properties. That information alone has helped us to not only get these properties up to code, but it has given us a contact company for all future issues. An added benefit was all the hours we have been able to give back to our Public Works Department. We have been able to reduce the time that Public Works has spent servicing vacant properties by 86 percent, freeing them up to redirect that time back to our residents.

In previous articles I've explained the difference between foreclosed, vacant, or abandoned properties. I'm speaking more about the foreclosed and vacant, because as we know in many cases, they are unfortunately directly connected. We are working hard to identify programs to help our residents manage through

their circumstances if they find themselves in this situation. We believe that it is our responsibility to share as much information as we can to help people better understand their options.

We started 2017 off with a list of 22 properties that the Township believed were the worst and most unsafe vacant properties in town. As of the end of last year, we have only seven left. Now, out of those 15 properties, the Township only paid for the demolition of one; the others were either rehabbed or demolished at the cost of the buyer. Pennsauken Township has worked hard to keep this initiative as cost neutral as possible. The funds that we have collected through registration fees needed to be used to cover the

cost of the taxes that were not being paid on these properties.

With the partnership of every department in town and the outside resources that we are now using, as well as all the information we have received from our residents, we have been able to develop a vacant property program that has become the model for all of Camden County.

Together, we have made a lot of progress. We've made a clear statement that Pennsauken is no longer an inexpensive town to maintain a vacant property. Our residents come first, our town matters, and we will not stop until we can say that the blight is gone and we have restored our town.

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If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.

Local Veterans Groups Offer Support, Camaraderie To Those Who Served

What is a veteran? Some would define a veteran as an old timer or maybe an expert. To others, it would be someone, who at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount "up to and including their life."

There are many in our community who have given much in service to their country. In fact, the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics puts the number of veterans in New Jersey's first congressional district at over 41,000. Chances are you know a veteran. They

may be a neighbor, a friend, or a member of your own family.

Veteran service organizations can play an important role in the life of veteran. Not only do these organizations give back to the community, they also provide an opportunity to bond and so-



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cialize with individuals that have been in their combat boots. Locally, there are three prominent veteran service organizations: VFW Post 1270, American Legion Post 68, and AMVETS Post 101. All three have similar missions: to support and campaign for veterans. Collectively because of their membership, they have a very strong voice in advocating for all veterans at the national and state levels.

Gross-Hollinshed VFW Post 1270 is located at 2324 Penn St. in Pennsauken. There are three qualifiers for membership in the VFW: U.S. Citizenship, honorable service in the Armed Forces, and having served in a "war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters." Post meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 8:00 p.m. Auxiliary meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. You can visit their website at <http://vfw1270.org/>.

American Legion Fredrick W. Griggs

Post 68 is one of the original posts in the American Legion Department of New Jersey. The group meets on the second Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Merchantville Community Center, 212 Somerset Ave. All veterans who served during qualifying conflicts are welcome to join. The Post now has an Auxiliary Unit which meets at 6:00 p.m., prior to the Post meeting. Any ladies who are the spouse or the daughter of a veteran are welcome to join. The post has a very active Facebook page: www.facebook.com/fwgriggs-post68americanlegion.

AMVETS Post #101 in Delair is located at 519 June Rd. Membership is open to all who served honorably in the military of the United States. The post's monthly meeting is on the second Sunday at 11:00 a.m. They can be contacted by calling (856) 906-0213 or e-mailing Amvets101@gmail.com.



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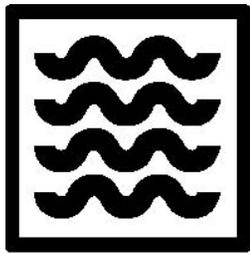
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MPWC WATERLINES

A Reminder To Our Senior And Disabled Customers

If you haven't done so already, be sure to submit your enrollment form for your 2018 discount! Please note that even if you received a discount in 2017, you must apply EACH year to continue re-

ceiving your discount. Now is a good time to collect any information you may need for your application. Stop by our administrative headquarters on Westfield Ave. in Pennsauken to pick up an

application. You may also print a copy of the enrollment form by visiting our website at www.mpwc.com. Our customer support representatives will be happy to assist you in completing your enrollment

form. Your enrollment form requires your block and lot number, so please bring along a copy of your tax bill.

COLD WEATHER TIPS

Keep your meter warm this winter! Water meters are prone to freezing, just like the pipes in your home.

Keep the area around your meter warm to prevent cracks and leaks. Meters that are damaged due to freezing temperatures will be replaced at the

owner's expense. Follow these tips to help prevent frozen meters and pipes this season:

- Keep the garage door closed (especially if the garage is attached to the house).
- During a deep freeze, keep the ther-

mostat set to the same temperature day and night. Lowering the thermostat could cause pipes to freeze.

- If you're going out of town, drain the water system completely. Do this by shutting off the main valve and letting all the faucets in the home run until the system is empty (no more running water comes out of the tap).
- Check for and fill in holes or cracks in exterior walls and foundations to prevent cold air from coming into the walls.
- And remember to insulate and protect your water meter!

KEEP INFORMED WITH REVERSE 9-1-1

This winter, the MPWC has been handling a variety of weather-related water main breaks. For members of the community directly affected, we provide messages via our Reverse 9-1-1 notification system. To stay informed of all water emergencies that may occur within our service area, visit MPWC.com/swift911 to sign up for Reverse 9-1-1!

Adopt-A-Hydrant



If you've signed up to participate in our Adopt-A-Hydrant project, remember to send us your pictures! If you're clearing your adopted hydrant of snow or other debris, snap a photo so that we can share it on our Facebook page!

If you're interested in learning about the MPWC's Adopt-A-Hydrant program, please visit the MPWC website at www.mpwc.com or e-mail hydrants@mpwc.com.

Individuals can participate by adopting a hydrant nearest their homes. This is also a great opportunity for scouts, civic groups or individuals looking to earn community service hours.

Help us keep hydrants clear of snow



to save time and lives during a fire emergency

Keep Your Meter Warm This Winter



Meters are prone to freezing temperatures, just like the pipes in a home. Keep the area around your meter protected to avoid cracks and leaks. If a meter breaks in the home, it is the customer's responsibility for the replacement.

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

These meetings are open to the public and are held at 6751 Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken.

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Public Meetings Continue For School District Bond Referendum

continued from page 1

Tuesday, Feb. 27; both will be held in the Library's Community Room at 7:00 p.m.

On Monday, Feb. 19 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a public meeting at Roosevelt Elementary School, 5526 Wisteria Ave. District officials will be on hand to discuss the referendum and talk in length about the high tech high school proposed at Roosevelt.

"We invite to public to come out and hear about how we will put close to \$36 million into our district while decreasing school taxes," says Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, superintendent, Pennsauken Public Schools. "This referendum is not just for one building; it completes the entire district."

The proposed referendum addresses a variety of projects in every part of the District, including new security vestibules at all schools; capital improvements to elementary schools with new windows and doors; the establishment of all-day pre-school; the demolition of an aging Longfellow Elementary and the erection of a comprehensive community park and playground in the school's old footprint; the addition of three new science labs and six additional classrooms at Phifer Middle School; the transformation of Roosevelt Elementary into a high-tech magnet high school, with the addition of a brand new gymnasium; and extensive renovations at Pennsauken High School, with improvements being



Last month, over 40 people attended a public referendum discussion at Longfellow Elementary School. Throughout February, there will be several referendum meetings for residents to attend, ask questions, and be informed.

made to the auditorium, library, locker rooms, and gymnasium; and construction of a plumbing lab. The proposal also adds significant improvements to the high school that will benefit the student-athlete. Plans call for the building of a brand new, state-of-the-art field house, new tennis courts, an all purpose turf field, lights, and an eight-lane track.

The timing of this referendum couldn't be more beneficial, according to District officials. With the retirement of the bond debt from the building of Fine, Delair, and Intermediate schools, the proposed bond referendum will actually reduce school taxes. For example, a resident with an assessed home of approximately \$140,000 will see a reduction of \$11.06; these savings take into account both the

comprehensive improvements and the District's regular operating budget.

Residents Learn More About Longfellow Project

Last month, over 40 people attended a public referendum discussion at Longfellow Elementary School. The meeting had a particular focus on the Longfellow portion of the project. Current plans call for the demolition of Longfellow, which is in severe disrepair, and the building of a comprehensive community park and playground in the school's old footprint. Students throughout the District would visit the grounds for monthly field trips; and the community would also be able to take advantage of the facilities, which will include a walking path, gazebo, and pickleball courts.

"We wanted to put something together that's beneficial for our students, but is also something that gives back to the community," says JoAnn Young, member of Pennsauken's Board of Education.

Many in attendance had questions about the Longfellow portion of the referendum. Dr. Tarchichi answered participants, explaining that with Longfellow closing, the District will work to keep the students from this community together in one school, so that they continue to learn with the friends they've grown up with. And while Longfellow's state of disrepair requires that the building must

come down, the park concept is not set in stone. In fact, if the referendum passes, the entire Pennsauken community will be polled on whether or not they want a park built in the school's footprint.

"We're going to survey the community to see what they want. The Pennsauken community has a vested interest in this," says Tarchichi about the Longfellow project. "If this park is not part of the referendum, the funds go back to residents through an increased school tax reduction."

Several residents took time after the meeting to share their thoughts on the presentation.

"I liked the presentation," says Amy Chess, a longtime Pennsauken resident.

"I got a lot of information."

"The presentation was great," says Patricia Eubanks, who moved to the Township in 1996. "I am so 'yes' on the park. We need a park on this side of town."

Kevin Laurick is a lifelong Pennsauken resident who attended Longfellow Elementary as a child; his daughter currently attends school there. He expressed some sadness regarding the building's demolition, but was positive overall about the proposed initiative.

"It's a shame they're tearing it down, but it is in bad shape. I understand why they're doing it," says Laurick. "I like everything they're doing with [the refer-

continued on page 29

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fiction books with a variety of genres and styles all wrapped up so you don't know what book it is. The mystery is part

of the fun! And it gives you an opportunity to try something new for your reading diet.

Check out a book based on its book ad, and return it when you're done! Don't forget to fill out the “Rate Your Date” card and return it to the Reference desk. You will be entered in a raffle to win a “lovely” treat. Come in and meet a date, or two, or three.

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Monday, Feb. 19 for Presidents' Day

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February Library Events

- Blind Date with a Book – Throughout February, check out the Library's display with wrapped books. You can select your blind book date by its ad. Read and return for more dates. Fill out the Rate your Date card and return it to the Reference Desk to be entered in a raffle for a “lovely” treat!
- AARP Tax Help – Wednesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 1-28; 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. This free service will be available in the Community Room on a first-come, first-served basis. Priority is given to seniors. Please note the following documents are required: last year's tax return, photo identification, and social security card.
- Valentine's Day Cookie Sale – Saturday, Feb. 10; 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Enjoy some yummy treats on sale at the Library's lobby or buy some for your special Valentine. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.
- Friends of the Library Meeting – Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Join the Friends for their monthly business and planning meeting.
- Munch and a Movie – Tuesday, Feb. 20; 12:30 p.m. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy a FREE movie and snack, courtesy of the Friends of the Library. For this month's movie selection, please call the Circulation Desk at (856) 665-5959.
- Library Board Meeting – Monday,

Feb. 26; 6:30 p.m. The Library Board is the governing body for the Pennsauken Library. Each month the members meet to review current issues, budget, policies and staffing. The community is encouraged to attend these meetings.

- Mixed Media Book Club – Wednesday, Feb. 28; 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. This book club will meet the last Wednesday of the month. It is open to 18 to 24 year-olds. We will read diverse books and transform them into art. Come join us for a literary and artistic experience.

For Children Accompanied By Their Caregivers:

- Cool Critters – Friday, Feb. 23; 4:00 p.m. Visit the Library for a fun and informative presentation showcasing live animals from Paws Discovery Farm. From the cutest bunnies to the scariest snakes, this show has something for everyone! All ages.
- Storytime – Wednesdays, Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28; 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15 & 22; 2:00 p.m. Miss Susan and Miss Sabrina welcome you to a fun-filled time of stories, songs, and a craft. For ages 0-5.
- Pajama Storytime – Monday, Feb. 26; 6:00 p.m. Join Miss Susan and Miss Sabrina for night-time storytime fun – and feel free to wear your favorite pajamas! For ages 0-8.

Pennsauken Board Of Education Seeks New Member To Fill Vacancy

Notice is hereby given that the Pennsauken Township Board of Education is seeking qualified candidates for a board member vacancy to serve to the January 2019 organizational meeting. Legal requirements for interested candidates include:

- Be a resident of Pennsauken Township for at least one year and an American Citizen
- Be able to read and write English
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Must satisfy a criminal history background check
- Complete disclosure statements as required by the provisions of the “School Ethics Act”, P.L. 1991, c.393 (c.18A:12-21 et seq.)
- Have no interest in any contract with, or claim against, the Board

• Able to serve the complete term to the January 2019 organizational meeting
To be considered, please submit a letter of interest and resume indicating your qualifications. Please include reasons your selection to the school board would be of value to the district and its students.

Candidates will be interviewed at the special meeting of the Pennsauken Township Board of Education, to be held at the Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Road, Room 327, Pennsauken, on February 12, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Please submit a letter of interest and resume by 3:00 p.m. on February 5, 2018 to Noreen Boston, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, 1695 Hylton Road, Pennsauken, NJ 08110 or by e-mail to: noreen.boston@pennsauken.net.

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GOING GREEN Roses Are Red, Violets Are Blue, What Do Flower Colors Mean To You?

By Kathleen Harvey,
AAP Columnist

This article is reprinted from the February 2015 edition of All Around Pennsauken. Kat will return with a new article next month.

Valentine's Day is approaching, and many people send flowers to their loved ones. Gazing upon a beautiful, brightly colored flower arrangement can evoke strong emotion. But what emotion does the flower giver intend versus what the arrangement conveys? From the deep passionate red of a rose, the elegant white of a calla lily, or the exuberance

concentrated in a bouquet of golden tulips, the color of flowers sends an emotional message.

Coveted throughout the ages for their simple beauty and intoxicating fragrance, there's no better way to send a heartfelt message than with flowers. Each flower type has its own special significance. Every flower color, from a deep red rose to a bright yellow daffodil, offers a rich and meaningful story dating back thousands of years. Over the centuries, these messages have been written down and exchanged as the symbolic meaning flowers express. Consider these

meanings when choosing the next fresh flower bouquet you wish to send, so that your flowers communicate exactly what you intend to say.

Red arouses an energy that has the power to transform an otherwise unassuming flower into the essence of desire, strength, and passionate love. Red is the color of seduction and desire.

White is associated with innocence, humility, and reverence. White flowers evoke simple beauty.

The pale blue hues of a hydrangea, or the deep blues of an iris, can calm worries and preoccupation and represent peace, openness, and serenity.

Pink is the color of youth. A pink rose is often given as a token of admiration and appreciation. Its darker cousin, purple, is the color of royalty.

Yellow elicits feelings of joy and lightheartedness. Also a symbol of friendship, a bouquet bursting with yellow blooms sends a message of new beginnings and

happiness. Yellow flowers are perfect for celebrating new relationships.

Orange's message is clear and blatantly proud. Symbolizing energy, enthusiasm, and warmth, an arrangement of blooms in this vibrant color conveys confidence, satisfaction and a passion for life.

Now that there is a road map for flower meanings, be sure to support your local florist and give a bouquet to that special someone. Happy Valentine's Day!

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FOODADVENTURES Freaky, Fabulous Fries From Pennsauken Eateries

By Rachael Shugars,
AAP Columnist

The official discovery of the potato, according to the internet, was by the Incan Indians in Peru. It's the fourth largest crop in the world. In the early 1500s, Spaniards discovered just how delicious they were and brought them home to cultivate. Then in the late 1500s, Sir Walter Raleigh brought them to Ireland. For those who don't know Raleigh, he founded the infamous Roanoke Colony and helped popularize tobacco in England.

History lesson aside, potatoes are pretty amazing; a virtually perfect food. There's a museum in Idaho dedicated to this fat-free, root veggie. President

Thomas Jefferson even served french fried potatoes at a White House dinner! It's not too much of a surprise, considering there are over 4,500 varieties of potato in the world. They all carry different flavors and textures and can be cooked in any way imaginable.

I'd like to focus on a favorite of mine; the french fry. French fries were created in Belgium and are traditionally covered in mayonnaise instead of ketchup, which is popular here in the states. If you've never tried this, give it a go and you can thank me later.

I set myself with the grueling task of trying out three special french fry dishes available in our fair city. My first stop brought me to House of Pizza at 7447

Maple Ave., where they have something called Mega Fries. This dish includes three different types of cheese and bacon, paired with a side of ranch dressing. Mega fries, along with the other fry dishes I tried, are NOT a healthy option, so these are perfect as comfort food, game day eats, or even something to enjoy if recouping from a night on the town. They're pretty tasty. If you decide to try them on your lunch break, make sure you order them a little in advance, since they do take about 15 minutes to make. They go from the fryer straight into the oven to melt all that delicious cheese. It's a decent sized addition to any meal for about \$6. Call to order at (856) 488-5588.

My second trip took me and my family to Montegrillo Cucina Italiana at 5825 Westfield Ave. The crunchy fries, topped with tangy marinara and melty mozzarella cheese, were fantastic. I got them as a side dish but these are perfectly good as a whole meal. I definitely had to share these with the family. For around \$5, they're a great choice for all ages. We dined in with our super friendly waitress, Kathy, so I definitely suggest you do the same; but you can always order out as well. Call (856) 910-9000 and give these fried treats a try.



Mega Fries from House of Pizza and Buffalo Fries from Gaetano's Steaks are just two great french fry options you can find in Pennsauken.

My final food adventure location took me 5245 Marlton Pike. Gaetano's Steaks has a wide variety of meal items to pick from, but this visit included their Buffalo Fries, which offer a kick of Cajun sauce and tangy bleu cheese. I'm honestly a french fry purist who mostly enjoys my pommes frites au naturel (french fries with nothing on them). I like spicy stuff and this has a little kick of heat. It's mild buffalo wing sauce on french fries. These will set you back about \$5; you get a lot, so they are well worth it. You can order by calling (856) 665-2200. They deliver almost anywhere in town and are open late.

The versatility of french fries and the potato, in general, is great for foodies. Whether you like things simple with a nice Russett or sweet baked potato, or you want to get fancy and get the chance to try a Bonnotte potato, the most rare, expensive potato in the world, it's all about personal preference. Cover your spuds in cheese, wrap them in a burrito, serve them up for breakfast and, of course, always enjoy your food adventures.

Find more local food content from Rachael by liking "All Around Pennsauken Food Adventures" on Facebook.



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Goodwill Hosts Annual Bridal Sale Extravaganza

The running of the brides tradition at Goodwill continues in 2018! Goodwill will host its annual Valentine's Bridal & All That Glitters Sale on Saturday, Feb. 10 at its Pennsauken, NJ, store, located at 5461 Route 70. The sale will run from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Gently-used gowns start at just \$49. And new bridal gowns

from designers like Alfred Angelo, Maggie Sottero and Nicole Miller start at just \$99. Looking for a mother of the bride gown, a special occasion dress or bridal accessories? Goodwill will have those too at great prices.

Beyond savings, shopping Goodwill supports a worthy cause. Proceeds from

this fundraising shopping extravaganza fund Goodwill's job training programs and career services that prepare individuals with disabilities or disadvantages for competitive employment in the community. For more information, please call (856) 439-0200 or visit www.goodwillnj.org.



The Goodwill store in Pennsauken hosts its annual Valentine's Bridal & All That Glitters Sale on Saturday, Feb. 10.

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Township Committee, School Board Hold Reorganization Meetings continued from page 1

“[Township Committee likes] to push the positives. We’ve done positive things in some difficult times – better than most municipalities – and it certainly has been a team effort. One person can’t do it. If you’re the mayor, it’s an honor and a privilege, but you certainly need the other people on Committee to help get things done.”

Betsy McBride, who was elected to a fourth term on Township Committee, was sworn in by her husband, Superior Court Judge Edward J. McBride, to serve as deputy mayor for 2018. McBride reflected on her busy first term as mayor, which occurred last year.

“We had so much going on: a lot of groundbreaking and a lot of ribbon cuttings. I thank my colleagues and the administration for their support. We have great staff in our building and we managed in 2017 to have the second highest tax collection in the history of the Township of Pennsauken. I really want to take my hat off to the people who make that happen. In all of our departments, everybody does a lot to support the administration.”

Several members of Committee of



Orlando Viera, Mike Bortnowski, and Maria James took their oaths of office last month as members of the Pennsauken Board of Education. In addition, the Board appointed Nick Perry as president and Diane Johnson as vice president for 2018.

ferred their congratulations to both McBride and Killion after their swearing in.

“I’d like to congratulate Betsy; she did a great job as mayor,” says John Figueroa. “I’d also like to congratulate Jack for being the new mayor. I think you’ll do a great job.”

“I’d like to thank Betsy for her leadership throughout the year,” added Rick Taylor, who also thanked all those who offered prayers and goodwill during his prolonged illness. “You did a great job and Jack had your back. The two of you made a

great team. [This year], it’s just in reverse.”

Bill Orth successfully ran for the unexpired Township Committee seat left open when John Kneib took over as the Township Administrator. After his swearing in ceremony, Orth, who serves as the town’s director of public safety, recognized Pennsauken’s first responders.

“I’d like to congratulate and thank Chiefs Coffey, Coyle, and Palumbo for their outstanding leadership in our public safety departments,” says Orth. “We have outstanding men and women in all

of these departments. They make us safe every day.”

In closing, Mayor Killion vowed to work with the Township Administrator to help provide even better service to Pennsauken businesses and residents.

“I want to work closely with our departments. I want to make sure that everyone has the tools they need to help serve our public. We work for the public. I think every once and a while, we need to be reminded that.”

School Board Holds Reorganization On January 2

Orlando Viera, Mike Bortnowski, and Maria James took their oaths of office on Jan. 2 as members of the Pennsauken

Board of Education. In addition, the Board appointed Nick Perry as president and Diane Johnson as vice president for 2018. After the swearing in ceremony, Perry spoke about the Board’s new members and the work being done to improve the District.

“Once again we have a great group of Pennsauken Township residents to help us shape the future [of Pennsauken Public Schools],” says Perry. “We have to stay ahead of the curve in education. I think with Dr. Tarchichi, the Board, and our vision, we have been able to set standards that have changed Pennsauken now and will change it in the future. Everything we’re adding is designed to make the school system better than it was before.”

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PUBLICWORKS Leave The Snow... Take The Chocolates

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,
Department of Public Works

A fun fact to open this month's article: In the U.S., 64 percent of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts. Although I will neither confirm nor deny whether or not this fact applies to me, I can however report that the Public Works Department is in planning stages for this year's activities.

While our annual budget proposal process has been completed, we turn to the late winter/early springtime projects that are quickly approaching. Inclement weather can keep our crews unable to

safely or efficiently operate. These "slow" days, after snow has fallen and plowing is complete, prevent us from taking a dead tree down or replenishing playground mulch in a park. We use this time to perform preventative maintenance services on our vehicles, equipment, and facility until Old Man Winter drops his next round of snow in Pennsauken.

These "off season" projects are the result of a late summer planning session that occurs due to the requests from residents and known problem areas that we know would require more manpower than we have during our normal busy seasons. The newest and inherently ben-

eficial part of this process is the input that our office clerk provides as a result of interacting with our residents and general public through e-mails and phone calls to the Department of Public Works. We have been able to identify a variety of problem areas, such as overgrown "islands" on our local streets or along railroad tracks. Although these areas may not be the responsibility of the Township, proper planning could eliminate the eyesore in a timely fashion while improving the look of Pennsauken. A large-scale project of 2017 was the recreation of the panoramic view of Tippin's Pond from the parking lot at the end of Cove Rd. It really came out great and we look to continue projects such as this in 2018.

This is also the time of year when basement sump pumps that are run to the curb start to freeze. This could be the cause of random "icy roads" around town, even when there has been no snow or rainfall. In January, the region experienced a significant freeze that caused water mains and water services to freeze and break, causing water to flow for hours

down the street to the nearest storm inlet. We received many repeat complaints where residents claimed our crews did not salt our roads due to the presence of thick ice. In situations as this, we dispatch a backhoe to break-up these icebergs. A call to the Department of Public Works at (856) 663-0178 can dispatch a truck to address unsafe street conditions.

Speaking of street conditions, we are entering the magical time of year where "potholes" pop up. We rely heavily on the residents and general public for information on pothole locations and other issues. We welcome a phone call or e-mail to our office, and will respond after prioritizing safety issues first. To report potholes found on county roads, call (856) 566-2980 or visit www.camdencounty.com/service/public-works/county-road-report-form/. To report a pothole on a state highway, visit www.state.nj.us/transportation/commuter/potholeform.shtm.

Tips For Residents During Snow Plowing

I would like to offer a couple sugges-

tions for the remaining weeks of winter that can make life easier during our snow plowing operations. By placing vehicles in your driveway before snowfall begins, our crews can open each street "curb-to-curb," as they are instructed to. This avoids stretches of street not being plowed as our dump trucks cannot maneuver between two parked vehicles.

Depending on the amount of snowfall, wait to shovel your driveway aprons. A rule of thumb is that plowing operations will not begin until four inches have accumulated on the street. That being said, if it is supposed to snow for two days straight similar to 2016's January blizzard, you should be prepared for multiple rounds of both plowing and digging-out.

Pennsauken has a number of neighborhoods that do not have driveways and rely on street parking. We kindly ask all Township residents, while you clean off your cars, driveways, and sidewalks, DO NOT place snow in the street after we have plowed. There is a Township ordinance that prohibits this and there are fines associated if caught. We ask for your continued patience during our snow operations while we clear the roads.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach us at (856) 663-0178 or e-mail publicworks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

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Pennsauken's Clark, Taylor Receive Camden County's 2018 MLK Jr. Freedom Medal

continued from page 1

him for well over 25 years, I'm very happy for him. It's well deserved. He's a great husband, father, grandfather, and person," says Pennsauken Mayor Jack Killion. "And Davon, what a force he is in his own right; he saw a need and worked to make things better. Pennsauken's doing very well with having two residents nominated for this great award."

Inspiring Children To Learn And Achieve

Davon Clark has over 17 years of experience and training in the educational and entertainment fields; obtained two NAACP Image Awards for his work on TV One's critically acclaimed docu-series, "UnSung;" and works as an educational instructor in Philadelphia, the Bronx, Los Angeles, and Camden. Davon developed ADC Kid (A Davon Clark Kid), a startup children's multimedia educational company based in Pennsauken that is dedicated to the advancement of empow-

ering and enlightening through interactive literacy, fitness, and basic math skills.

"Receiving this award means a lot. It means that people recognize that I'm actually out here trying to make a difference and help our youth," says Clark. "Hopefully, it'll help push things forward."

"I feel that everyone is placed on this earth to leave their mark. I hope that this accomplishment will inspire others that they can do it as well: to leave their mark and give back to others."

Longtime Educator And Public Servant

Rick Taylor has dutifully served the community of Pennsauken Township for decades. As an educator for over 40 years, Mr. Taylor served as teacher, assistant principal, principal, and director of personnel for the Pennsauken School District. During his career, he also found time to give back as an assistant football coach and head golf coach at Pennsauken High School. Rick also has an ongoing commitment to public

service as a member of Pennsauken Township Committee since 1994, holding the position of mayor nine times. A principled man of faith, Rick has long served his parish of Saint Stephen's Roman Catholic Church as a lector, and serves on the board of the Office of Black Catholic Ministry for the Diocese of Camden.

"I'm humbled by the award," says Taylor. "It certainly makes you appreciate people appreciating you."

Rick's spirit of giving has been inspired by his parents' example.

"I had parents who gave a lot," explains Taylor. "I learned that you pass it on. I've had a lot of blessings in my life;

it's just a matter of passing it along."

And at age 71, Taylor shows no sign of stopping.

"As long as I can take a breath and help somebody, I'm going to try and do it."

For bios and videos on each of 2018's honorees, visit www.camdencounty.com/2018-martin-luther-king-jr-freedom-medal.

Public Meetings Continue For School District Bond Referendum

continued from page 23

endum]. I'd prefer the park over all the other things suggested.

"One of my main concerns was where my daughter was going; she had all of her friends there. They're trying to keep everyone together. I'm hoping they can do it."

Open House And Referendum Meeting

On Sunday, Jan. 28, members of the Pennsauken community had an opportunity to not only tour Pennsauken High School, but also learn about the upcoming bond referendum vote slated for March 13.

Dr. Tarchichi and School Board President Nick Perry addressed the group of several dozen people, once again highlighting what the almost \$36 million in-

vestment would mean to the Pennsauken School District if the referendum passes. The residents in attendance were engaged during the presentation and there was a productive Q&A session afterwards.

"I think the presentation was informative," says Robin Schneider, who grew up in Merchantville, but recently moved to Pennsauken after living several years in Arizona. "It was worth my time to come down and learn about the programs that will be proposed and the changes that the school district needs in order to be competitive in the educational community."

For more information about the proposed bond referendum, video presentations, upcoming community meetings and more, visit GrowingPennsaukenSchools.com.

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Lenten dinners begin on Wednesday evenings February 21 through March 21 6PM to 7:30PM.
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Board Games on the First
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YOUNG ADULTS: Meet on the third Friday of every month from 7PM to 9PM

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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY Love Is Sweet In February With Friends Of The Library's Cookie Sale

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

Valentine's Day will be here before you know it. And in addition to a classic candy heart filled with chocolates or a bouquet of flowers, have you considered giving that special someone a delicious assortment of cookies? Well, the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library have; and we've made it easy for you.

The Friends' before-the-big-day annual cookie sale takes place Saturday, Feb. 10 from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., or sooner if supplies run out. We'll have bags and bags of all the favorites: fancy sugar cookies, snickerdoodles, chocolate chips, and lots more. We never know the extent of our bakers' creativity, so you'll have to come see for yourself. Each bag is just \$1 and all proceeds go to help the Library. And if you're a member of the Friends of the Library, show your membership card and receive a free bag. How sweet is that?

Munch And A Movie On February 20

Remember that we've changed our Munch and a Movie to the third Tuesday in each month, so our next feature will be shown on Tuesday, Feb. 20, beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the Library Community Room. We aren't allowed to disclose the name of the film, but if you can't wait to be surprised, call the circulation desk to find out. Bring your lunch and we'll supply tea, coffee, water, and snacks. Bring a friend or come alone and meet some new ones.

New Items In The Children's Department

We're proud to announce that the

Friends have recently provided the money for the Children's Department to purchase a wonderful assortment of brand new and very exciting items. First, there's the Krayon Kiosk, a welcome and very colorful new addition that looks like a giant crayon and includes stations for two iPads that children can use under supervision to watch videos and play games that are a fun and entertaining way to enhance reading skills, enjoy the Library, and just have fun! The Krayon Kiosk will replace the library's aging computer learning system. Next, Library staff will be installing a brand new interactive activity center, accompanied by a button maker kit, a manual activity overseen by Children's Department staff. We're told it's one of the hottest new trends libraries now offer to young active members. We're excited and know the children – and their parents – will be as well.

Mark Your Calendars For March

Looking ahead to next month, we have four new Thursday evening yoga classes lined up for adults beginning March 1 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room. So grab your mat and come out for some muscle-soothing stretches and calming exercise. Successive classes take place March 8, 15, and 22 and are open to all yoga ability levels. So whether you're a total novice or a seasoned stretch, you'll be welcome. Please note that even though this is a four-week course, we have reserved the room for a fifth week just in case there's a pesky snow or storm closure we have to make up. Namaste.

There's also a fantastic accordion

concert scheduled for Saturday, March 10, but we'll share more details on that next month.

So, as usual, lots of activities coming up at the Library you won't want to miss.

Former Reporter, PR Pro "Provides Front Row Seat To History"

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

At the beginning of his talk, Ed Eisen commented that he had "an interesting story to tell." Boy, he wasn't kidding.

Eisen was – among other things – a longtime reporter for the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Philadelphia Bulletin, as well as a public relations professional for over 30 years. And on Jan. 7, he was a guest of the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library. His presentation, "A Reporter's Front Row Seat To History," featured some pretty big highlights of his 52-year career.

"Just recently, my grandson asked, 'Grandpop, how did an Orthodox Jew, son of a janitor, go from a career as a top 40 disc jockey, to a journalist, to a spokesman for a pope?'" This is the story of how that happened," says Eisen.

The several dozen people who decided to brave the winter weather that weekend were not disappointed. Eisen regaled stories of doing work for the Vatican to promote the Eucharistic Congress held in Philadelphia in 1976, where a certain Cardinal Karol Wojtyła – years before his name change to John Paul II

We truly want to thank everyone who participates in our fundraising activities. Without your help, we truly wouldn't be able to provide so many wonderful additions and events that make our

Pennsauken Library the great place it is.

Our next Friends meeting takes place Feb. 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room. We'd love to see you there!



Ed Eisen, a former reporter and public relations professional turned motivational speaker, gave a special presentation on his 52-year career at the Pennsauken Free Public Library.

– was in attendance; asking Senator Ted Kennedy a hard-hitting question regarding the incident at Chappaquiddick Island; hearing the last words of Leo Held, a shooter who killed several people at Lock Haven paper plant in 1967; having a special moment with Mother Teresa over a bowl of soup; and more. He even asked President Ford if he thought he'd get re-elected. Ford thought it was a given. Turns out, he was wrong.

Now in "Act IV" of his life, Eisen travels from his home in Jenkintown, Pa as a

professional speaker, talking on a variety of topics that include "I'm An Octogenarian: What Do I Do Now?" and "Sound-Off: Debating The Big Issues From Today's Headlines." He keeps himself very busy in this new role; and that's just the way he likes it.

"I am what is called a motivational speaker, talking to lots of different groups of people," says Eisen. "I believe this firmly: if you rest – and I'm not – you rust."

For more information about Ed and the topics he speaks about, visit EdEisenShow.com.



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The Importance Of Maintaining Good Dental Health For Pets

By Dr. Erika Sweigard, VMD,
Pennsauken Animal Hospital

As a small animal general practitioner, I cannot begin to count the number of times owners have looked stunned when I have recommended that they brush their pet's teeth. When it comes to companion animal oral health, it seems that "out of sight, out of mind" often prevails. Ignoring our pet's dental care can lead to oral pain, poor overall health, costly extractions and horrible stinky breath!

Dogs have 42 teeth and cats have 30 teeth. Like humans, dogs and cats first sprout deciduous or "baby" teeth that fall out and are replaced by permanent teeth between four to six months of age.

Embracing The Martin Luther King Junior Day Of Service

During last month's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Scouts from Troop 119 in Merchantville completed an Eagle Scout project, erecting a flagpole in Wellwood Park. Photo credit: Facebook, Merchantville Online.



Even though we see more dental issues in older pets, it is important to get puppies and kittens used to having their mouths opened and their teeth and gums touched. After your pet is used to having their mouth handled, they will be much more likely to accept routine teeth brushing using yummy pet toothpaste and a pet specific toothbrush. The more amenable a dog or cat is to an oral exam, the more likely you are to brush their teeth and the happier your veterinarian will be when they go to perform a routine oral examination. It is also important to avoid very hard chews like bones or antlers which can cause teeth to break.

The progression of dental disease starts with the accumulation of tartar and bacteria

on the surface of the tooth. Tartar can form a thick calculus and the bacteria will begin to penetrate the space between the gingiva (gums) and the tooth, causing inflammation and weakening the attachment between the tooth and the bone that holds it in place. Over time, painful gingivitis can occur, the tooth can become loose and bacteria can cause an abscess or pocket of infection. Your veterinarian may recommend a dental for a routine cleaning to prevent this from occurring or to address these problems after they have already occurred.

When a pet has a dental, that involves them undergoing general anesthesia. Once they are asleep, the veterinarian examines each surface of every tooth for fractures, pockets of infection and mobility. Full mouth radiographs (x-rays) are also performed. Using both the examination and the x-rays, your veterinarian will decide if any unhealthy or loose teeth need to be extracted. An extraction is typically performed by creating a flap in the gums, drilling out the unhealthy tooth and root (cat and dog teeth can have up to 3 roots) and surgically closing the gingival flap over top. Any remaining teeth are cleaned using an ultrasonic scaler to remove tartar. Pets that have teeth extracted will likely go home with soft food and pain medications until healed. Miraculously, dogs and cats with few to

no teeth can live a normal, pain-free life and even resume eating hard food!

February is Pet Dental Health Month.

Please consider scheduling an examination to discuss your pet's oral health with your veterinarian.

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HEALTHYLIFESTYLES What To Do About The Flu: Seasonal Flu At Peak Time Of Year

We're right in the middle of "Flu Season." While some cases of the flu can start as early October and last through May, the winter months are when you'll see a peak in flu activity.

If you haven't gotten the flu shot, there's still time. Based on information from the Centers for Disease Control, getting vaccinated, even in the middle of the 2017-2018 flu season, is okay. The flu

shot is recommended for those six months and older. However, if you're allergic to chicken eggs, had a severe reaction to a flu vaccine in the past, or have a moderate or severe illness or fever, you shouldn't get one.

So what if you get the flu? At that point, there's not much that can be done if you head to the doctor's office. The flu is a virus, which means antibiotics won't

help. You're going to have to ride it out. Still, there are some things to keep in mind until the flu runs its course:

- Drink lots of liquids – water, sports drinks, and the like will prevent dehydration; and hot drinks like tea and broth can help relieve nasal congestion and sore throats
- Get plenty of rest – staying home from school or work and resting is vital to

fighting the flu, especially during the first 24 hours

- Avoid contact with others – remember, the flu is contagious and can be spread through sneezing and coughing
- Take your medicine – over-the-counter cough and cold medicines can help ease flu symptoms in adults, but it's not a cure; you can also take aspirin or ibuprofen to alleviate fever, headache and body aches
- If you experience shortness of breath, cannot keep down fluids for 24 hours, have persistent liquid stools accompanied by dizziness, a fast heart rate, or low blood pressure, seek emergency



medical help immediately

Hang in there! While it may seem like a lifetime, the flu only lasts for one to two weeks. Plus, warmer weather, and the end of flu season, will be here before you know it.

Township Actively Seeking New Energy Aggregation Vendor

When the Pennsauken Township energy aggregation program concluded in September of last year, the administration received numerous calls from residents expressing disappointment that the program, which saved them money on their monthly electric bills, was ending. Because of the positive feedback from the community, the municipal government has started the search for a new vendor.

"The Township Committee has instructed our administrator to search for a new vendor to set up the town's next energy aggregation program," says Pennsauken Mayor Jack Killion. "This process is already underway and we hope to have some options in the next few weeks."

New Jersey Government Energy Aggregation

Under this type of program, the energy needs of Pennsauken's 36,000 residents are grouped together and then bid on by state-licensed energy suppliers. The suppliers bid their lowest rates in exchange for this potentially large volume

of business. The result is that residents save on their energy costs for the year. Residents enrolled in the energy aggregation program will continue to have PSE&G deliver their power, handle customer accounts, respond to outages, and maintain service; the electricity just comes from a cheaper source. It is also important to note that Pennsauken's municipal government will not receive any financial consideration for participation in an energy aggregation program; the cost savings from the lower electric rate solely benefit residents.

More information will be provided on the Township's website, twp.pennsauken.nj.us, as it becomes available.

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Woman's Club Of Merchantville "Goes To The Dogs"

The Woman's Club of Merchantville, the Club's Evening Membership Department, and the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) are "going to the dogs." Woman's Clubs from all over the State are supporting Patriot Paws and Service Dogs of America, two organizations that work with disabled veterans; and Canine Companions for Independence, a previous NJSFWC state project that provides assistance dogs for individuals with physical disabilities.

Hearing dogs alert their deaf partners to important sounds; facility dogs work

with clients with special needs in an institution; and skilled companions help adults and children with disabilities.

On Saturday, Feb. 10, women from across the state will gather in four locations to pack boxes of care packages for these organizations. Items being collected are:

- PetSafe Sure-Fit Dog Harness ¾", medium, black
- One-inch Pets Training Martingale Collar, small, medium, or large
- Long dog leash, 32 feet or more
- Nylabone Dura Chew Wolf, bacon

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- Kong Classic dog toy, large, X-large, red
- Kong Extreme Ball dog toy, medium, large
- Kong Extreme Goodie Bone dog toy, medium (black), large (red)
- Kong Tires Extreme dog toy, medium, large

If anyone would like to contribute to this project, please contact Jan Hanson at (609) 410-4650 or e-mail janwh@aol.com.

Pennsauken Fire Department Responds To Gas Main Break

Last month, the Pennsauken Fire Department was on the 400 block of Springfield Ave. responding to a four-inch, natural gas main leak. Camden County and Pennsauken's Offices of Emergency Management assisted with evacuations. Photo credit: Twitter, @PennsaukenFire.



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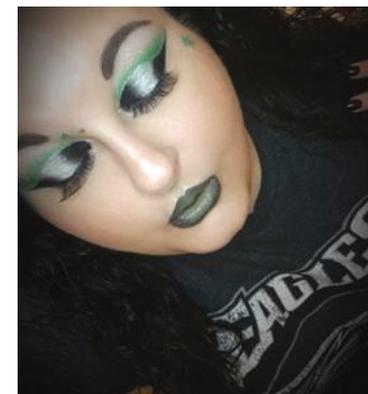
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inTown Showing Pennsauken's Eagles Spirit

During the NFC Championship last month, Pennsauken rooted for the Philadelphia Eagles as they punched their ticket to play in Super Bowl LII.



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inSports PHS Winter Sports Highlights



Pennsauken High School's JV Hockey Team put on a respectable showing during their home opening loss against Paul VI.



During Pennsauken High School's game versus Trenton Catholic, senior Shayla Sweeney broke the PHS girls basketball career scoring record, previously held by Elise Graham.



PHS junior Keyoura Smith (right) races around the track during the 2018 U.S. Army Hispanic Games.



Tip of the Month

Any item in your home connected to a network, from your TV to even a baby monitor, can be hacked into if not properly secured. Be sure to change the default passwords on all digital devices, make sure your WiFi network is encrypted, and turn off devices when not in use.

These simple steps can keep your home and family safe!

Trash Dumping In Pennsauken Does Not Pay

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director, Department of Public Works

In early January, Pennsauken's Department of Public Works was made aware of an individual dumping trash at the Derosse Ave. Boat Ramp. Coordinating with the Pennsauken Police Department, evidence was found indicating the address of the suspect. This individual was located driving off with a car that was loaded with even more trash. Pennsauken Police were able to locate and arrest the suspect. Department of Public Works management found additional postal mail, matching the suspect's address at Tippin's Pond and also "The Pit" football complex in Bloomfield. Public Works has cleaned up the dumped trash and will be charging the costs of this cleanup to the responsible individual.

In any of these instances, the most crucial part of the process is prompt, timely reporting of the issue. In recent weeks, specifically for illegal dumping, reporting is often delayed. Instead of reaching out to Public Works or our police department, we've seen residents post photos of the dumping on various social media sites instead. The quickness of the reporting is proportional to the response time.

Many towns locally experience some sort of random dumping; the difference in how quickly and effectively dumping is handled is directly related to how these issues are reported. Issues posted online – unless they're sent via the Township's official Facebook page or website – take longer to respond to. You'll have to wait until a Township employee happens upon that post, or someone suggests that you reach out to a specific department directly with the appropriate contact information.



The individual who illegally dumped large piles of trash at the Derosse Ave. Boat Ramp will have to pay over \$2,400 in cleanup fees.

Instead of posting photos online, cut out the "middle man." Send that photo, with a time and location in an e-mail, to Pennsauken's Department of Public Works at publicworks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us. That way, we may be able to quickly track a pattern and narrow-down a specific window of time for police to patrol an area.

With the reality that those who will dump in the future are not likely to read this article, I still want to relay how easy it is to use the weekly trash collection services that the Township provides. A simple

call to Public Works will have you in touch with our office clerk, who can explain how to properly dispose of trash items. To explore "why" people dump, I can boil it down to two things most people don't have enough of: time and money. For those that rent in town, this could mean an end of a lease or eviction. Although it is the responsibility of the renter to plan accordingly, using weeks of trash collection to purge everything; they often wait until the last minute and illegally dump when the clock runs out. If you wait until the last minute, generally, the only option would be to take your debris to the landfill on River Rd. in Pennsauken. This will cost you approximately \$100 per ton of debris. Remember, a ton is 2,000 pounds: that's a lot of trash!

To draw a comparison between this landfill charge and the cost of the Department of Public Works cleaning it up for you, the landfill fees for the dumping at the boat ramp was \$189. The cost to the perpetrator for Public Works to clean it up, including labor, landfill fees and equipment fees, was over \$2,400! I think

about the effort and time spent dumping this debris. They had to handle this stuff twice: furniture, random household debris, storage bins of postal mail; and they STILL paid 12 times the landfill cost PLUS related arrest expenses.

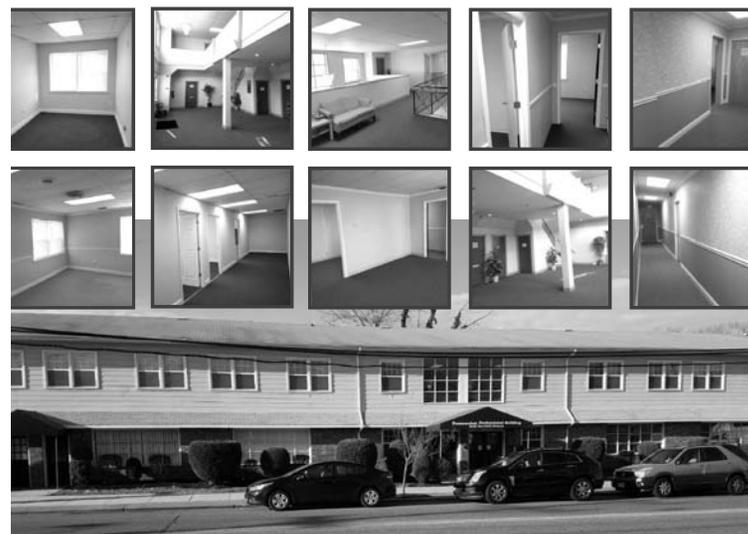
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tant to us. Keeping Pennsauken clean is important to you. Together, we need to spread awareness to our neighbors about properly disposing our trash. Individuals caught illegally dumping trash on Township property will be charged appropriately.

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inSports Pennsauken High School's Raymond Recognized As Scholar Athlete Of The Year

David Raymond, a senior at Pennsauken High School, was recognized as the 2017 Student Athlete of the Year by the South Jersey Soccer Coaches Association, receiving a \$1,000 scholarship for his college education.

On the pitch, Raymond is the captain of the PHS varsity soccer team and led the BCSL Liberty Conference in scoring. In the classroom, he has an SAT score of 1380 and is ranked third in his class with a 4.4 GPA. David is also president of the National Honor Society and a member of the Spanish Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Science

Honor Society, Leo Club, and Go Brighten a Day Club. After graduation, he plans to attend Haverford College to pursue his degree in physics and play NCAA soccer.

"Pennsauken High School produces great students; David is just one shining example," says Eric Mossop, the school's athletic director. "Congratulations to David, Coach Snyder, the entire Raymond family, and all of David's teachers and coaches throughout his life. Thank you for making us Pennsauken High School proud!"



Pennsauken High School senior David Raymond, seen here with his family, was recognized as the 2017 Student Athlete of the Year by the South Jersey Soccer Coaches Association.

Team Pennsauken Holds Cornhole Fundraiser At Bobby Ray's On February 24

Team Pennsauken will be hosting a cornhole tournament fundraiser at Bobby's Ray's Pennsauken Tavern, 6324 Westfield Ave., on Saturday, Feb. 24, noon to 5:00 p.m. Cornhole is a fun lawn game in which players take turns throwing bags of corn or bean bags at a raised platform with a hole in the far end.

Showcase your cornhole skills with your friends; the first place team will take home a cash prize. The event is limited to 50 teams comprised of two people. Individuals can also come out for just food

or drinks. In addition, there will be a 50/50 drawing and Team Pennsauken apparel will be available for purchase.

Teams must be registered by Feb. 19. All proceeds will benefit the Police Unity Tour, which raises awareness of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. Participants must be 21 years old or older.

For purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/team-pennsauken-unity-tour-cornhole-tournament-tickets-41760631172.

PYAA SPORTS

PYAA Spring Intramural Soccer Registration This Month

Boys and girls from Pennsauken and Merchantville are invited to join PYAA Boys and Girls Spring Intramural Soccer.

Online registration continues through Sunday, Feb. 18. There will be no in-person registration this season. For children born on or after December 31, 2012, the cost is \$75; for children born before December 31, 2012, the cost is \$90.

Coaches and assistant coaches are also needed. If individuals are available one hour a week to hold a practice and one hour an evening for the actual game, it would be a great help. If more people get involved, they can be paired to help spread the responsibility.

For questions or more information, email pyaasoccerj@gmail.com.

Softball And Baseball Sign-Ups Start In February

PYAA Softball and Baseball sign-ups will be held Monday through Thursday from Feb. 19 to March 8 at the PYAA Field House, 3501 Elm Ave. Softball will have no online sign-ups.

For more information, visit PYAA.net.

For advertising rates & information call 662-5100 or email allarounds@aol.com

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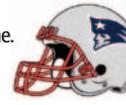


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